



Report on the Administration of Bengal 1924-25

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Bengal Administration Report, 1924-25.

Introductory Note.

This report describes for the most part events and conditions during the financial year from April, 1924, to March, 1925. Part I, the General Summary, which follows, is a narrative account of the most notable facts, and, where the requisite information is available, brings the record down to the end of December, 1925. Part II gives a detailed account of each subject based on departmental reports. Where necessary, references have been given to the more comprehensive administration report which follows each census and which was last published in 1921-22.

Part I.—General Summary.

I.—The Political Situation.

1. The emergence of the Swarajya party under the leadership of the late Mr. C. R. Das and its entry into the Legislative Council with the avowed object of wrecking the Reforms were delineated in the report for the previous year. At the commencement of 1925 the relative strength of the parties in the Council, in spite of individual fluctuations, showed no substantial change from the positions won by them at the last election. The Independents, who differed from the Swarajya party only in owing no allegiance to Mr. Das and in not being pledged to refuse office, formed with the Swarajists the permanent Opposition. The Ministerialists, apt to be swayed by their personal attitude towards individual Ministers, had not been, even when there were Ministers in office, consistent in their support of Government; and the eventual abolition of the Ministry tended still further to weaken the ties which bound this group. In the contest for

Political Parties.

supremacy the Swarajists had the great advantage of being the only force in possession of a highly developed organisation backed by party funds and capable of keeping its ranks united, of procuring the attendance of its members on the occasion of all important votes, and of exercising influence over the members of other groups. The Government and Opposition forces still, however, remained very evenly balanced and voting on most issues was very close. In this situation the Muhammadan vote, capable of weighing the scales on either side, bore much the same relation to politics in Bengal as the Irish vote used to bear to English politics in the House of Commons. Although certain Muhammadan members had subscribed to the Swarajya creed and supported that party, several others resented the untimely curtailment of the Muhammadan Ministry; while the non-participation by Muhammadans in the revolutionary conspiracy made it easier for the independent representatives of that community to adopt an impartial attitude to any legislative action directed against the revolutionaries.

**The Criminal
Law Amendment
Bill**

2. Such was the position of the parties in the Council when a special session was summoned on the 7th January for the purpose of obtaining permission to introduce the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. The activities of the revolutionary conspiracy had necessitated the promulgation of the Ordinance in the previous October, and several revolutionaries had been arrested and detained under its provisions. The Ordinance was, however, a temporary measure due to expire in April, 1925, and the Bill, which was to remain in operation for five years, was designed to take its place. In order to make clear the full gravity of the situation with which Government was faced, it is desirable at this point to recapitulate in the barest outline the main overt activities of the revolutionaries which had led to the adoption of drastic measures for their suppression. These were two murders, two attempts at murder, the creation of a bomb factory, the issue of inflammatory leaflets announcing a campaign of ruthless assassination of police officers and the condemnation to immediate death of all who in any degree helped Government.

At the opening of the session, His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council and explained to the members the urgency of the necessity for suppressing terrorist crime in the Province. The impossibility of dealing with this menace by means other than those proposed in the Bill was clearly demonstrated, and solemn stress was laid on the truth that it was better that the ordinary processes of law should be suspended for a limited time and in the case of a few individuals than that a secret organisation should be left free to threaten the lives of those whom it saw fit to call its enemies. In introducing the Bill the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson adduced irrefutable proofs of the existence of a highly organised, well armed and well financed conspiracy, against which almost all attempts to set the machinery of the ordinary law in motion had signally failed in the past. Finally, it was pointed out that the cases of those who had been arrested under the Ordinance had been placed before Judges, who had in every instance agreed with the view of Government regarding their complicity in the conspiracy. Such a weight of argument produced no effect on the stolid front of the Swarajist Opposition, in whose eyes the issue was but another contest between the Council and the Government. They had already made certain of victory. At a meeting of Muhammadans held on the previous day, Mr. Das had employed all his powers as a rhetorician to win over the wavering representatives of that community. Simultaneously an intensive campaign of intimidation against members of Council had been instituted in the Press and other means resorted to in order to procure either their unwilling support or their abstention from voting. Strengthened by these devices the Opposition refused even to discuss the Bill which was thrown out by a majority of nine. As there could be no doubt of the necessity of such a measure, the Bill was subsequently certified by His Excellency the Governor.

3. Before proceeding to a further account of the working of the Council it will be convenient at this stage to turn attention to the revolutionaries. The preventive action taken by Government under the Ordinance achieved its object in so far as it

**Revolutionary
activity.**

removed the known leaders of the conspiracy from the sphere of their activities; and the cessation of overt revolutionary crime which followed in the wake of this action was the true measure of the urgency of the need for suppression. The movement had, however, been merely scotched and not killed; but time was required to recover from the blow which had been dealt, to replace the old leaders by new chiefs, to refill the ranks that had been depleted. For this end propaganda was essential and the old campaign of recruitment in the Press and elsewhere was pursued with unabated energy. A flood of revolutionary articles was let loose in the regular newspapers and periodicals, accompanied by a stream of pernicious books and pamphlets. The books and pamphlets were drawn up on much the same lines as the Press articles, which will be dealt with in the second section of this summary, and took the form of denunciations of the economic oppression of the British in India, appeals frequently in the form of poems in mystic language extolling freedom, bloodshed and self-sacrifice, and accounts in eulogistic language of the exploits of the old revolutionaries. Some of those publications were printed locally while others were imported from places outside the jurisdiction of the Government of India. In several instances recourse was had to proscription, seizure and prohibition of importation; but the majority of the pamphlets were so written that they fell just outside the definition of sedition. The object of those publications was to represent Government as satanic, oppressive and barbarous. On occasions quotations from or references to Hindu religious writings were made with a view to justifying violence and bloodshed. Appeals were addressed to the women of Bengal exhorting them to follow the example of the heroines of Rajputana and to instil into their sons and husbands a spirit of self-sacrifice on behalf of the mother country. Pamphlets of mischievous intent with a dangerous undercurrent of suggestion were published setting out in laudatory terms the deeds done by students in the movement for freedom in Russia and calling upon the young men of Bengal to do likewise. A pamphlet of this type was sold at the Congress pandal at Faridpur, and this was one of the few instances in which prosecution

could be sanctioned and a conviction procured. A concise manifesto of the revolutionary party was widely circulated in pamphlet form throughout India. It contained a direct incitement to revolution giving as the immediate object of the party the establishment of a Federal Republic of the United States of India by an organised and armed revolution. The extensive method of distribution of this pamphlet was in itself ample proof of the widespread organisation of the conspiracy. The unsettling and deleterious effect of this stream of poison on the immature minds of the students of Bengal, for whose benefit it is chiefly concocted, may easily be imagined. The results produced thereby are at least as bad as those of open revolution and as a means of spreading the contamination of sedition it has proved itself an insidious and very potent force.

4. Instances of illicit traffic or of attempts at illicit traffic in arms were of disquieting frequency. A consignment of German bayonets, this time under the guise of "wood-cutters", was discovered, and there is evidence that two cargoes of arms and ammunition from Continental sources, which were intercepted at intermediate ports, were ultimately destined for Indian purchasers. The profit to be gained by this trade owing to low Continental prices and high local demand is tempting, and there is proof that the weapons found with revolutionaries were imported by illicit means. Two persons were caught in the act of selling an automatic revolver and ammunition in Calcutta; two Indians were convicted for conspiracy to obtain illegal possession of arms from Chinamen, and an attempt was made to purchase arms from a Calcutta firm by means of a bogus order. Those weapons were clearly not intended for any lawful purpose. The dangerous character of this traffic as a method of arming revolutionaries is fully realised and every effort is being made to check it at its source.

Illicit traffic in
arms.

5. After the excitement caused by the Criminal Law Amendment Bill had subsided there was little of political interest until the annual budget was submitted to the Legislative Council in

The Budget
debate.

March. Apart from the tactics adopted in the course of the voting on Ministers' salaries, the conduct of the Council during the budget debate gave evidence of the development of a more reasonable attitude than had been manifest in its deliberations of the previous year. There was less tendency to reject demands on the reserved side merely because they were advanced by Government, or from a desire to record dissatisfaction with the present form of constitution. The demands made by the heads of the various departments were treated with more consideration than they had been in the previous year, and the submission of motions for reduction or refusal was generally accompanied by some explanation for the adoption of such a course. There were, it is true, bitter general attacks on the Police in the course of the debate; the departments of Police, Excise, Land Revenue, and the Administration of Justice had to run the gauntlet of numerous motions for reduction, and none of them escaped wholly unscathed; but no demand was rejected in its entirety. Where it was found necessary in the interests of good administration to do so, the amounts reduced were subsequently certified by His Excellency the Governor. So close were the divisions on certain of the budget motions and demands that in one instance, on a motion for refusal, the casting vote of the President alone turned the scales in favour of Government, while a subsequent motion to reduce the same demand was carried by two votes. The strength mustered by the Opposition on most of the votes indicates that there was still a large body in favour of the refusal of supplies. Had the Opposition not been handicapped by the absence through illness of Mr. Das during the early part of the debate, it is possible that their obstructive tactics might have met with more success.

Refusal of Ministers' salaries.

6. It is to be regretted that the good impression produced by the Council in its treatment of other demands was doomed to be nullified by its vote on the most momentous issue of all. On the refusal of the Council in August, 1924, to allow the demand for the salary of Ministers, His Excellency the Governor had been obliged to

assume temporary charge of the transferred departments. As, however, the training of Ministers and the testing of their capacity to administer transferred subjects are essential features of the new constitution, which, without Ministers, must to all intents and purposes cease to function, it was considered desirable that some effort should be made to bring home to the Council the real significance of the issues dependent upon its decision. At the same time there was reason to suppose that the adverse vote on the question of salaries had been aimed not so much against the Ministry as an institution as against the Ministers then in office. In order, therefore, to procure an unequivocal expression of opinion on this question, Government, in the month of January, without proposing the name of any person as Minister, moved that provision for a Ministry be made in the budget for the ensuing financial year. This motion was carried by the substantial majority of twenty-four. When, however, it came to the voting on grants, the Council, swayed by the great personal influence of Mr. Das whose skill had achieved a temporary combination against Government, reversed its former decision and by a majority of six rejected the provision for the pay of Ministers. The Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson in introducing the demand and in his speech which closed the debate had made it clear that, if the motion for the refusal of salaries were carried, the Ministry would cease to exist, and that a necessary concomitant of that decision would be the suspension of the transfer of all transferred subjects. The procedure to be followed on the voting of salaries had also been explained in the Press. There was thus no doubt that on this occasion the Council realised all the implications of its vote, and Government had no alternative but to conclude that the Council had no desire to work the Reforms.

7. The immediate result of the refusal of salaries was the resignation of the two Ministers then in office, accompanied by the temporary assumption by the Governor of the administration of transferred subjects and followed, when sanction had been obtained, by suspension of transfer with effect from June, 1925, till January, 1927, when the period of the present Council is due to expire.

Results of refusal of salaries.

The attitude of the Opposition held out no hope of procuring a stable Ministry during the life-time of the present Council, and there was no reason to suppose that a fresh election would improve the position. The Temporary Administration Rules were designed only for crises of short duration and the only course open to Government was to apply for suspension of the transfer. The victory in Council had been hailed by the Swarajists as heralding the death of dyarchy. The action of the Council had indeed brought about at least a temporary cessation of that form of Government; but it required no great stroke of genius to effect that result. Dyarchy is essentially a tentative and temporary scheme involving the co-ordination of two different principles of Government, and its framers were aware that it could be worked only "by mutual forbearance and a strong common purpose". Where these were wanting it was bound to fail. But it did not follow that the work of Government was rendered impossible by the refusal to co-operate. Provision had been made for such a contingency, and the only results of obstruction are that Bengal, by the vote of her elected representatives, has for the present ceased to participate in the powers and privileges conferred upon her by the new constitution, and that this achievement will add little to the credit side of her account when her claims to further concessions come to be considered.

Election of President.

8. The next trial of strength between the parties in Council came at the election of a new President in place of the nominated President whose term of office was due to expire in August. Many candidates were in the field, several of whom, from doubt whether their chances of election would be advanced or retarded by declaring themselves Swarajists, gave rather nebulous definitions of their creed; but the real contest lay between the Swarajya nominee and a representative of the Independent party. The Swarajists used all the means at their disposal to procure support for their representative, but the Independent candidate proved successful by a small majority. From the tone of the Swarajya papers with reference to this defeat it was clear that they viewed

the result with despondency as indicating inability on their part to procure the continued support of the Muhammadan members.

9. In spite of the victories gained by the Swarajists in the vote on the Amendment Bill and on the salaries of Ministers, this party gave signs of being less powerful than it once had been. In the general budget debate it had been defeated on most of the issues. The campaign against the Ordinance had failed to rouse any widespread interest. Intervention in the Tarakeswar dispute had accomplished little, while it had definitely alienated the sympathies of orthodox Hindus. The long-delayed village reconstruction scheme had gone no further than the collection of funds, and had been successful only in rousing the suspicions of the landlords. All these external forces were combining to sap the strength of this group, and there were also within itself symptoms of a disease that might eventually prove fatal. It has repeatedly been the fate of leaders of parties whose tenets have been based on principles of destruction to come to a point at which they realise that their policy has been barren of results, and begin to turn their thoughts towards the adoption of saner courses. This leads to a moderation more or less extensive of views hitherto held, and it is generally the fate of a leader in such circumstances to find that he is doomed to lose the sympathy and support of the more extreme elements amongst his followers. Such a crisis in the fate of the Swarajya party arrived in the course of the year. Faced by the weakening tendencies already outlined and met with a steady resistance to its demands by Government both in India and in England, the party had little cause to congratulate itself on its achievements. Intimidation had failed to force concessions, and the attitude of irresponsibility hitherto adopted by the party towards the revolutionaries had inspired a mistrust of its motives which must at all costs be removed. It was therefore essential that a stand be made against the revolutionary left wing and an attempt made to win the confidence of Government and the public by making it appear that the methods of force advocated by the

**The Swarajya
Party.**

extremists did not have the approval of the party. To understand all that this decision implied it must be remembered that the strength of the revolutionaries still remained great in spite of the Ordinance, that they were well represented, although not in a majority, on the Provincial Congress Committee, and that the loss of their support would be serious. At this juncture Mr. Das opened the contest by explaining in the Press that he was prepared to adopt a constructive policy and to co-operate with Government on honourable terms. This in itself was not only a departure from but an actual reversal of the policy adopted by Congress in 1920, and the significance of this step was still further emphasised by an almost simultaneous denunciation of political assassinations. At the same time the left wing was voicing discontent with the paucity of the rewards allotted to its members in return for their support at Council and Municipal elections and in the *satyagraha* work at Tarakeswar.

The Provincial Congress.

10. These antagonistic forces were destined to come into open conflict at the meeting of the Provincial Congress held at Faridpur in May. The first blow was struck by the revolutionaries who, at the opening of the conference, distributed a pamphlet in which the futility of the policies both of Mr. Gandhi and of Mr. Das were exposed, with the implication that nothing could be effected except by force. In marked contrast to the violent tone of some of the speeches delivered, the address of Mr. Das gave a reasoned exposition of the creed of Swaraj and openly offered co-operation under certain conditions, even although it did carry an inconsistent sting in its tail in the shape of a threat of civil disobedience in the event of refusal of his terms. The speech met with only a cold reception and it was evident that it was not to the taste of the orthodox non-co-operator. It was only after a heated debate that the words "within the Empire" in the definition of the aims of the party as proposed by Mr. Das were allowed to stand. The attempt to restrict the demand for the release of political prisoners to particular individuals was defeated, and the resignation of Mr. Das and the

dissolution of Congress were averted only by the personal intervention of Mr. Gandhi who emphatically declared his confidence in Mr. Das in the political field. Mr. Das had thus succeeded in asserting his authority in face of extremist opposition, but his position was far from enviable. His action at Congress met, with caustic criticism on the one hand because he had whittled down the demands of his party, and on the other for his presumption in offering terms to Government and in backing them up by the threat of civil disobedience. There could, however, be no question that the strong personality of Mr. Das still commanded the respect of a majority of his party, and, although his future was fraught with difficulty, there was no one of sufficient influence to challenge his position as leader.

11. As at Serajganj in the previous year, Muhammadans held aloof from the deliberations of the Provincial Congress at Faridpur and preferred to attend the District Moslem Conference which was held as a counter-attraction at the same time and place. The Congress was thus representative of only Hindu opinion and, although resolutions were carried advocating Hindu-Moslem unity, the discussions on this, the erstwhile main plank of the Swarajya platform, elicited little or no enthusiasm. At the Moslem Conference the trend of the debate was rather in the direction of the airing of communal grievances than the establishing of mutual goodwill. Such incidents were symptomatic of the weakening of Swarajist influence over the Muhammadan community.

Mohammadans
and the Provin-
cial Congress.

12. At this crisis in its fortunes the Swarajya party was deprived of the guidance of its powerful leader by the death of Mr. C. R. Das in June. Bengal lost in him her most outstanding figure in the field of politics, and the display of respect for his memory was by no means confined to his political followers. His death left the Swarajya party without a head, and there was no one amongst his followers likely to have general recognition as his successor. It was fortunate for the party that at such a time, when personal ambitions and jealousies were likely to lead to disruption, Mr. Gandhi came to the rescue and maintained some semblance

The death of
Mr. C. R. Das.

of unity in its ranks. From the various candidates in the field of choice eventually fell on Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta who was elected both as leader of the Swarajya party and as President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. To those offices was subsequently added that of Mayor of Calcutta, although the new leader had had no connection with the Corporation, Mr. Gandhi frankly admitting that he looked upon the Mayoralty as a mere adjunct to the office of party leader.

Mr. Gandhi in Bengal.

13. As already remarked, Mr. Gandhi during a long sojourn in the province had intervened as mediator in the political sphere on more than one occasion. (He visited many places preaching his three-fold text of *charka*, Hindu-Moslem unity and the abolition of untouchability.) His popularity is a peculiar phenomenon requiring explanation. Although his influence over Muhammadans was on the wane, he still continued to attract large crowds of Hindus despite the fact that his preaching left his audiences cold and that his attitude of complete subservience to Mr. Das in the field of politics had alienated the sympathy of the no-changers. He was still, however, looked up to with reverence as a spiritual preceptor, and it was in this capacity that he drew such numbers to listen to his addresses.

The Swarajya Party and Tarakeswar.

14. The history of the dispute between the *satyagrahis* and the Mahant of Tarakeswar over the management of the temple at that place was given in last year's report down to the stage at which a compromise was effected between the Swarajists and the Mahant, who abdicated in favour of his *chela* and agreed to hand over the control of the temple, apart from the remainder of the property, to be managed by a committee of Swarajists. The Brahman Sabha, which claimed in a matter of religion to be more representative of orthodox Hindu opinion than the Swarajya party, objected to this compromise. A civil suit in this connection was pending for some time before the District Judge who eventually declared the compromise to be void and criticised the arrangement for management of the temple by an unorthodox committee. This condemnation of the compromise had

the effect of hardening public opinion already inclined to be suspicious of the motives which had actuated a purely political body to interfere in a question regarding the conduct of a shrine. At the same time there had been an open breach between one of the Swamis in charge of the *satyagrahis* and Mr. Das, and, in spite of every effort at recruitment and propaganda, the movement had died from inanition resulting from a two-fold lack of funds and volunteers. The season of pilgrimages was past and the temple was bringing the Swarajya party nothing but unpopularity. When, therefore, after some delay, a Receiver for the whole of the property including the temple, was appointed in July, Mr. Das and Mr. Gandhi announced that the *satyagraha* movement had been successful in removing abuses and that they had no intention of opposing the appointment. An appeal lodged by the Mahant against this order was partially upheld in respect of his personal property but left the Receiver in charge of the temple.

15. In a pamphlet which was widely circulated during Swarajya Week in December, 1924, the late Mr. C. R. Das, in calling for subscriptions, outlined his scheme of village re-organisation. Its aim was to free the people of Bengal from the shackles of subjugation to the bureaucracy by establishing village associations, schools, arbitration courts, improving sanitation and water-supply and capturing all local bodies. Part of the funds was also to be set aside for the maintenance of the distressed families of the "worthy sons" of the country who had been arrested under the Ordinance and to defend in court persons arrested under that "lawless law". From the tenor of the speeches delivered in the course of the Swarajya Week it appeared that the sponsors of this scheme were actuated not so much by altruistic motives for the betterment of the lives of their village brethren as by a desire to enlist them as recruits. Collections for the fund fell below expectations and of the total of two and one quarter lakhs of rupees collected the major portion was diverted to other purposes, leaving only half a lakh for the work of re-organisation. In this connection *Forward*, in one of its

The Village Re-organisation Scheme of the Swarajya Party.

issues, dismissed wells and tanks as "belonging to another scheme of things," and suggested that the money should be devoted to political propaganda. There was little public comment about the diversion of this particular fund from its advertised aims; but prolonged delay in commencing work in the villages did result in criticism in certain quarters. An attempt has now been made to take up the work. In so far as this is confined to the improvement of village conditions the objects are laudable; but there are, unfortunately, indications that under the cloak of such beneficent endeavour the scheme is much more anti-British than philanthropic in its scope.

**The Swarajya
Party and Local
Bodies.**

16. In an issue of *Young India* Mr. Gandhi acknowledged that in deciding to capture municipalities and other local bodies, the object of Congress had been not the improvement of sanitation but the acquisition of greater political power. The introduction of political considerations into the field of local self-government had its best illustration in the appointment of Mr. Sen Gupta as Mayor of Calcutta. The distribution of offices under the Corporation continued to be a great political asset. With regard to local bodies in the mufassal, the Swarajists were successful in the Local Board elections in Midnapore; but against this must be set notable defeats in the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Dacca Municipality, in the Union Board elections in the same district, and in the Local Board elections in Tipperah. An organised attack was planned by the Swarajists against Union Boards in the Noakhali district, as it was feared that in Eastern Bengal, where Muhammadans are in the majority, the Village Self-Government Act would confer too much power on the villagers, relax the hold of the middle class over them and, by establishing village Benches and Courts from which lawyers are excluded, jeopardise the livelihood of members of the Bar. Where they have obtained majorities, the Swarajists have not copied the obstructive tactics of Council members, but have generally done their best to carry on the work of the bodies to which they have been elected.

17. The diminution of violent political agitation, apart from the activities of the revolutionaries, and the return to more normal conditions of political tranquillity which marked the year, were unfortunately accompanied by a growth of Hindu-Moslem distrust which at times resulted in breaches of the peace. Mutual hatred of the ruling power had been the only cementing force of non-co-operation and the considerations which led to discontent on the part of the Muhammadans eventually ceased to operate. The Khilafat movement, which had been the main-spring of Muhammadan agitation, achieved its object by procuring the favourable terms granted by the treaty of Lausanne. The abolition of the Caliphate by the Turks, the action of the Wahabis in seizing Mecca, and the disputes resulting therefrom tended to undermine Muhammadan ideals based on Pan-Islamic conceptions and to divert attention from foreign affairs to internal politics. The suspicions of Muhammadans had been roused by the non-acceptance of the Hindu-Moslem Pact and by the removal of their Ministers from office. Although attempts at proselytising, a fruitful source of trouble in other provinces, were of rare occurrence, disputes regarding religious observances, which often ended in blows, were only too common. In April Muhammadans of Basirhat subdivision attacked and wounded several Hindus who attempted to play musical instruments in the vicinity of their mosque. Similar incidents at Uluberia and in Dacca, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Faridpur districts were averted by the intervention of the authorities or resulted in legal proceedings. During the *Bakr-Id* a serious communal riot occurred at Kidderpore in which one Muhammadan was killed and many injured. At Tittagarh in April a similar disturbance took place resulting in the injury of many persons and necessitating the calling in of the military to quell the riot. In the thickly populated industrial area on the left bank of the Hooghly further outbreaks were prevented only by the elaborate precautions taken by the police. (Instances of mutually provocative conduct during the Durga Puja were also reported from the Noakhali and Pabna districts.) The question of

finding a suitable grave for the body of the so-called Muham-
madan *pir* which, as the result of the threatening attitude adopt-
ed to Corporation officials by certain Muhammadans, had been
buried in the New Market, continued to embitter communal rela-
tions in Calcutta. A committee formed by the Corporation re-
ported that this man was not Muhammadan but a Madrassi
Christian and *ex-convict*, and the Corporation decided to exhume
the body in October. Violent speeches were delivered by Muham-
madans opposing this suggestion and declaring that such action
would be an insult to their religious susceptibilities. The
Muhammadan members of the Corporation supported the views
of their co-religionists, and the Hindus feared that, if they
insisted on carrying out their project, they might lose the last
remnant of Muhammadan support in the Legislative Council.
The date for exhumation was therefore indefinitely postponed.
The less responsible newspapers of the two communities have
sought to intensify the prevailing spirit of antipathy, and have
agreed only in attributing the blame for communal disturbances
to the authorities and in insinuating that Government profits by
such lamentable disunion. (Enmity has indeed led to mutual
suspicion with the result that Hindus in East Bengal and Muham-
madans in West Bengal, realising the disadvantages and dis-
abilities inherent in their positions as numerically inferior com-
munities, are becoming more and more sceptical of the fair promises
held out by the advocates of Swaraj and are beginning to ask
whether the continuance of a stable Government would not be
more conducive to their interests.)

II.—The Press.

18. The work of the European Press in Bengal during the
year 1925 calls for no special comment, and remarks in this sec-
tion will be confined to Indian newspapers and periodicals. It
must regretfully be acknowledged that during the year under
review there has been no noticeable improvement in the language
and tone of the Indian Press which, with few exceptions, shows
as little sign as ever of appreciating at its true value the gift of

free speech or of realising the responsibility that devolves upon it as the preceptor and mouthpiece of the people. (That the castigation of Government is looked upon as the *raison d'être* of journalism in this Province is borne out by the fact that of all the papers now in existence not one purports to support Government, and that the majority do their utmost to vilify it on every opportunity.) One or two of the newspapers have extended their columns to include topics of general interest; but most of them still remain narrowly political in their outlook. The advantage to be derived from the newspaper as a weapon in the political arena is being fully realised and each of the parties in Council except the Independents is now in possession of organs in which they can give public expression to their views. The accessions of strength in this direction have been particularly numerous in the case of the Swarajya party which now has many papers under its control. The Swarajya journals advocate Council entry and on this question are opposed on the one hand by the "No-changers" who favour non-participation in the proceedings of the Council, and on the other by a third group which is in disagreement both with Swarajists and No-changers. These differences of opinion have led to much mutual criticism and acerbity of feeling between these sections of the Press.

19. At the beginning of the year the discussion of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill reopened in its full force the chorus of denunciation which had lulled a little after the excitement caused by the Ordinance had subsided. On this topic there was no difference of opinion and the Press was unanimously hostile, even the hitherto moderate *Sanjibani* remarking that, thanks to their sin, the British nation would be expunged forever from the civilized world. The *Forward* gave expression to the general journalistic opinion in the passage, "The contemplated measure is a perpetual menace to our liberty, a ban on our patriotism and a carefully prepared attempt to destroy the whole morale of our movement for freedom. He will be a traitor to the country who supports it". The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* demanded to know whether the members of the Bengal

Council would "share with the Government the responsibility of passing such a monstrous law utterly subversive of personal liberty". It is perhaps small wonder that in the face of such criticisms the motion to introduce the Bill was defeated. There were from all quarters frank admissions of the existence of a cold-blooded conspiracy, no convincing attempt was made to prove the ordinary law capable of grappling with the menace, and nothing but destructive criticism of the remedial measures was advanced. This is illustrative of the all-round inability or reluctance on the part of the Press to face facts, and of that atmosphere of unreality which pervades most of its writing.

20. The decision in favour of the appointment of Ministers gave rise to a tone of despondency in the extremist Press; but the refusal to grant salaries was followed by a paroxysm of rejoicing at the fall of dyarchy which was hailed as a further step on the path to full Swaraj; or as *Forward* put it, "The spirit that has killed dyarchy will gain strength at no distant date to scotch autocracy and announce the triumph of popular responsibility". The partial cessation of political activity which followed the temporary retransfer of subjects was accompanied by a period of comparative calm which was scarcely ruffled by the announcement of the suspension of transfer. While many papers expressed indifference to this decision, several others, by arguing that the course adopted was either too drastic or illegal, gave the impression that in some quarters at least there were regrets that the consequences of obstruction had so quickly come home to roost.

21. The general attitude of the Press towards the present Parliament was one of deep-rooted distrust which reached its height in the cry of almost universal disapprobation which greeted the long-expected speech of the Secretary of State on the political position in India. Disappointment at the absence of any promise of further advance in reply to the Faridpur gesture of the late Mr. Cr. R. Das was keen, and the statement that concessions could not be wrung from Parliament by methods of force and intimidation was referred to as a piece of bluff. The reference to the "sharp sword" with which India had been freed from its

oppressors was, by the device of misquotation and misrepresentation, made to appear in the guise of a threat; while the moderate newspapers stood alone in advocating the acceptance of the invitation to draft a new form of constitution. In like fashion the report of the Muddiman Committee met with general disapproval which was summed up in the words of the *Barkal*: "It is evident that the Reforms Inquiry Committee was constituted more with a view to curb the power already given to the people than to grant them new powers. The sole efforts of the Committee were to find out means to protect dyarchy from the obstructive policy of the Swarajists."

22. (As the Indian Press is almost entirely representative of the "intelligentsia" and the "bourgeoisie", it is not surprising that expressions of sympathy with Bolshevik theories and activities were, in papers not definitely communistic in policy, much less frequent than in the past.) There was still, however, a tendency to quote Russia as a fitting example for India to follow and to refer to Sovietism as the final manifestation of Socialism. One paper expressed the conviction that Lenin was "a man of wonderful deeds, an intensely religious man, one of the great-minded men who seek the deliverance of humanity". The Riff revolt was acclaimed both by the Hindu and the Moslem Press as the effort of an Eastern race to free itself from the Western yoke, and it was suggested that England in her desire "to wipe the Moslems off the face of the earth" would welcome the downfall of the insurgents. In spite of the emphatic declaration of neutrality by Parliament in connection with the dispute in Arabia, England was accused of secret collaboration with France and Italy in assisting Amir Ali to retake Hedjaz from Ibn Saud. England's policy towards Mosul was attributed to motives of mere self-interest, and the growing opposition of the Chinese to foreign powers was viewed with open sympathy.

23. On occasions when communal animosity led to breaches of the peace the more responsible papers, realizing the true danger of the situation, did not hesitate to unite with the authorities in

their efforts to restore calm; but others, with an abuse of privilege which cannot be too strongly deprecated, showed themselves only too willing to add fuel to the flames by indulging in attacks of a communal nature. The Pan-Islamic movement was satirically referred to in the Hindu Press as a deliberate device aimed at the disintegration of Hindu-Muhammadan unity. Low class Muhammadans were accused of systematic outrage of Hindu widows. The *Swatantra* found room in its columns for a perverted account of a pacificatory speech delivered by a Muhammadan making it appear that he had instigated his co-religionists to adopt measures of force against the Hindus. On the other hand certain Muhammadan papers did not hesitate to reply to those attacks in the same strain. In its account of the Kidderpore riot in which Hindus were the aggressors the *Noakhali Hitaisi* said, "The Muhammadans must take suitable remedial measures. Verbal apology will never be any redress". The *Mohammadi* vigorously attacked the Hindu Mahasabha as "a centre for the spread of anti-Moslem feeling", and elsewhere stated that as long as the Hindus despised the Moslems as untouchables the latter could not but hate them. Another instance of this lamentable lack of restraint, this time with the exacerbation of feeling against Christian missionaries as its object, was the reproduction in a Moslem newspaper of certain remarks against Mohammed which had been published twenty-six years previously, in a book now out of print, by an author long since deceased. The editor of the paper at fault had not himself seen the book and had relied on hearsay for his inflammatory statements. (The Press of both communities found common ground in criticising Government for failing to anticipate communal dissensions and for its inability to check the growth of communal animosity, while insinuations were not wanting that Government, from a desire to divide and rule, actually fostered the growth of such ill-feeling.)

24. Several newspapers and periodicals, continued to keep within the law while they did their utmost to sow the seeds of sedition by publishing appreciative accounts of revolutionaries, poems with bloodshed and self-sacrifice as their text, and articles

containing instructions on the use of the sword and lathi and formulæ for the manufacture of explosives. The *Sarathi* set forth the justification of this procedure in these words: "The distrust of the people must be removed. To give them such a training, the life-stories of self-sacrificing patriots must be recited to them. We may not adopt their methods. But are we not, on that account, to respect their renunciation, their heroism and their patriotism?" An account of the revolutionary movement in Bengal published in the *Basumati* contains the observation: "In Bengal of all countries the strength of mind required for unavoidable murder for the welfare of humanity or of the country is most lacking . . . I believe that a different atmosphere has to be created and training for generations in that new atmosphere has to be undergone, in order to enable Bengalis to overcome such weakness".

25. Enough has been written to show that contemporary Indian journalism, far from seeking to emulate the standards of restraint set up by the Press in American and European countries, is confining its efforts to the inculcation of a spirit of discontent, while its activities in certain directions actually constitute a dangerously powerful influence for evil.

III.—Police and Crime.

26. Despite the continuance of revolutionary activity and the occurrence of communal disturbances which have been outlined above, the steady improvement of political and economic conditions which marked the year 1925 was accompanied by a notable decrease in the amount of crime. Murders, which generally owe their origin to jealousy, intrigue and similar causes and are scarcely susceptible either of anticipation or of control, alone showed an increase. In the absence of riots of political origin, the improvement in this form of crime, which has been consistently manifest since the troubled period of non-co-operation, was continued throughout the year. The diminution in the figures for

theft and burglary, which may be taken as the index of "professional" crime, was particularly noticeable. This maintained an improvement under those two heads which was in evidence in the previous year, and it is worthy of note that in the course of the last five years the number of burglaries has diminished by as much as one third. In the case of dacoities, which showed a rather unexpected, even if slight, increase in 1924, a very substantial decrease was recorded in the year under review. The police are to be congratulated on those satisfactory results which are in large measure due to the concentration of effort on areas where crime has been rife. Since 1918 a certain number of dacoities, the aim of which was to procure funds for revolutionary objects, have been committed, but the number of those offences was so small as to have little effect on the general incidence of this class of crime. There was still in Eastern Bengal a continuance of dacoities committed by mixed gangs containing a large element of local professional criminals under the direction of members of middle class families, who constitute the *residuum* of the old volunteer and revolutionary organisations. Vigorous action was taken in the Dacca district against this form of crime and, as a result, it has practically been stamped out in that area. The participation by ex-revolutionaries in dacoities and the maintenance of dacoities in general at figures which are still much higher than those of the pre-war era are both legacies of the general atmosphere of lawlessness and defiance of constituted authority engendered by the non-co-operation movement, and it is unlikely that a return to normal conditions will become possible until the effects of that movement eventually cease to make themselves felt. On the whole, however, the almost general decrease in all forms of offences gives good reason for assuming that the tide of crime, which reached its high watermark during the period of non-co-operation and first showed signs of receding in 1923, still continues to ebb.

27. Calcutta derived much benefit from the Goonda Act under which several criminals of the goonda class were expelled from the city. The extension of the Village Self-Government Act to new

areas has been attended in some places with difficulty in adjusting the functions and authority of the police and the Union Boards. One of the most welcome features of the year was the rapid extension in some areas of the village defence party movement, and the valuable work done by several of those parties in resisting gangs of dacoits. This spirited action on their part often had as its reward the prevention of crime and occasionally the actual capture or death of some of the criminals. Government fully appreciates the value of such a spirit amongst villagers and all possible measures have been taken with a view to fostering the movement. The work of the police still continued to be hampered by lack of funds and by various measures of retrenchment, which, however necessary they may be from considerations of economy, must still have the inevitable effect of reducing the efficiency of the force. In pursuance of the policy outlined by the Retrenchment Committee, a scheme for the abolition of twenty-eight small thanas was prepared and seven were abolished during the year—a measure which has been consistently opposed by the inhabitants of the areas affected who fear that the removal of the thanas will encourage the perpetration of crimes in their locality. On the other hand, it has been found that in certain cases the policy of retrenchment has been pursued to limits which actually endanger the efficiency of the force, and it has, as a consequence, been found necessary to re-open classes for Sub-Inspectors at the Police Training College, to appoint one temporary Additional Superintendent and to revive two similar appointments which had been held in abeyance. New schemes for the development of police organisation on modern lines are required if the volume of crime is to be reduced to its pre-war limits, but a review of the whole situation leads to the conclusion that all-round improvement cannot be looked for until more funds are available for this object.

28. Under the general system of pooling all launches, which has been adopted as a measure of retrenchment, all police launches, other than those of the River Police, and also the River Police Dockyard at Nabiganj were transferred to the Marine Department.

A long-felt difficulty of administration was also removed during the year by making the jurisdictions of the *Railway Police* in Assam and Bengal coincide with the provincial boundaries and by opening a new *Railway Police* subdivision at Chittagong.

IV.—Finance.

29. A brief financial history of Bengal in the first three years of the Reforms was outlined in the Report for 1922-23 and the present observations are confined to the conditions prevailing in the year 1924-25. The budget as finally presented to the Council, provided for an estimated opening balance of Rs. 1,14,73,000, receipts of Rs. 10,26,98,000, and expenditure of Rs. 10,30,97,000, including expenditure on new schemes, chiefly of a non-recurring character, to the extent of Rs. 35,89,000. The figures for receipts and expenditure exclude transactions outside the “Revenue Account”. The estimates of expenditure were considerably modified by the Council when the various grants were put forward for their acceptance, a course of action which has been outlined in Chapter I of the summary of last year’s report. The ultimate position after making allowance for the reductions made by the Council, the items restored by His Excellency the Governor, and the supplementary grants voted in the August and March Sessions of the Council, was a reduction of the total net grant from Rs. 10,30,97,000 to Rs. 10,28,23,000.

30. For the year under report, however, the actual opening balance was Rs. 1,29,64,000 owing to additional taxation, retrenchment and temporary remission of the contribution due to the Central Government under the Meston Settlement. Actual receipts and expenditure amounted to Rs. 10,34,42,000 and Rs. 9,76,19,000, respectively, giving an actual surplus of Rs. 58,23,000 on the working of the year. It had been anticipated at the time of the framing of the budget estimate that there would be an improvement in receipts from Land Revenue, Stamps and Excise, and these anticipations were on the whole realised. In addition to this there were increases under several other heads.

The improvement under Stamps was due to an increase of Rs. 6,31,000 in the assignment on account of this Government's share of the sale proceeds of Unified Stamps and an increase in the sale of Non-Judicial Stamps. Against this must be set the fact that the budget estimate for Excise Revenue was not fully realised, although the actual receipts were higher by Rs. 5½ lakhs than those of the previous year, while there was a marked fall of Rs. 3½ lakhs under the Amusement Tax.

31. The grant sanctioned in March 1924 for the year 1924-25 was Rs. 10,03,99,000. During the course of the year, however, supplementary grants of Rs. 16,69,000 and Rs. 7,55,000 were voted by the Council in the sessions held in August 1924 and March 1925, respectively, so the total amount available for expenditure was Rs. 10,28,23,000 in that year. When the revised estimate of the year was framed, it was anticipated that the expenditure—taking the revenue account only—would be about Rs. 28½ lakhs short of the sanctioned grant. The actual expenditure, however, was less than the sanctioned grant by Rs. 52,04,000. A diminution of expenditure on Survey and Settlement accounted for savings under Land Revenue, while extensive savings were effected in the Irrigation Department. As was explained in the report for the previous year, the time-scales introduced from 1st January, 1922, had not been in operation sufficiently long to provide material from which to gauge the probable effect upon the expenditure under Salary and Establishment heads and the estimates under these heads were again largely a matter of guess-work. These factors account for a considerable portion of the savings under General Administration, Administration of Justice and other major heads. The saving under Administration of Justice was also contributed to by the fact that a larger number than usual of Provincial Service Officers officiated in posts ordinarily reserved for Members of the Indian Civil Service. In all Departments the new rules for travelling allowance—drafted as a result of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee—had the effect of reducing expenditure under this head. Reduction in printing charges for Council, a diminution in the number of

prisoners in jails, economy in the Public Works Department, and savings in the High Commissioner's budget all combined to produce this result. Taking into account the loan operation, the total revenue amounted to Rs. 10,49,52,000, the expenditure to Rs. 9,85,15,000 and the year closed with a balance of Rs. 1,93,91,000.

V.—Exports and Imports.

32. The aggregate sea-borne trade of the province of Bengal in 1924-25 reached the round figure of Rs. 283 crores. The total foreign trade advanced from Rs. 215 to Rs. 243 crores, and whereas in the previous year there was a marked decrease in imports, the improvement in the year under report was due to an increase both in exports, from Rs. 132·69 to Rs. 152·45 crores, and in imports, from Rs. 82·78 to Rs. 90·12 crores.

Coasting Trade.

33. The total value of the coasting trade, excluding treasure, advanced from Rs. 39·87 to Rs. 40·71 crores. Against an advance from Rs. 17·25 to Rs. 18·34 crores in exports must be set a decline from Rs. 22·62 to Rs. 22·37 crores in imports. Shipments of jute manufactures continued to constitute the bulk of the export trade. Imports of rice advanced by Rs. 93 lakhs while there was a decline of Rs. 1·67 lakhs in imported cotton goods.

Gold and Silver.

34. The transactions of treasure in the foreign trade resulted in an excess of imports over exports by over Rs. 2½ crores. Both sides of the account, however, showed decreases from the previous year, imports declining from Rs. 2·63 crores to Rs. 2·30 crores and exports from Rs. 31·52 lakhs to Rs. 1·49 lakhs. There were no imports or exports of gold or silver on Government account. While imports of gold on private account expanded from Rs. 23·42 lakhs to Rs. 49·36 lakhs, imports of silver on private account contracted from Rs. 2·40 to Rs. 1·81 crores. There were no exports of silver, and shipments of gold rose from Rs. 1·21 lakhs to Rs. 1·49 lakhs.

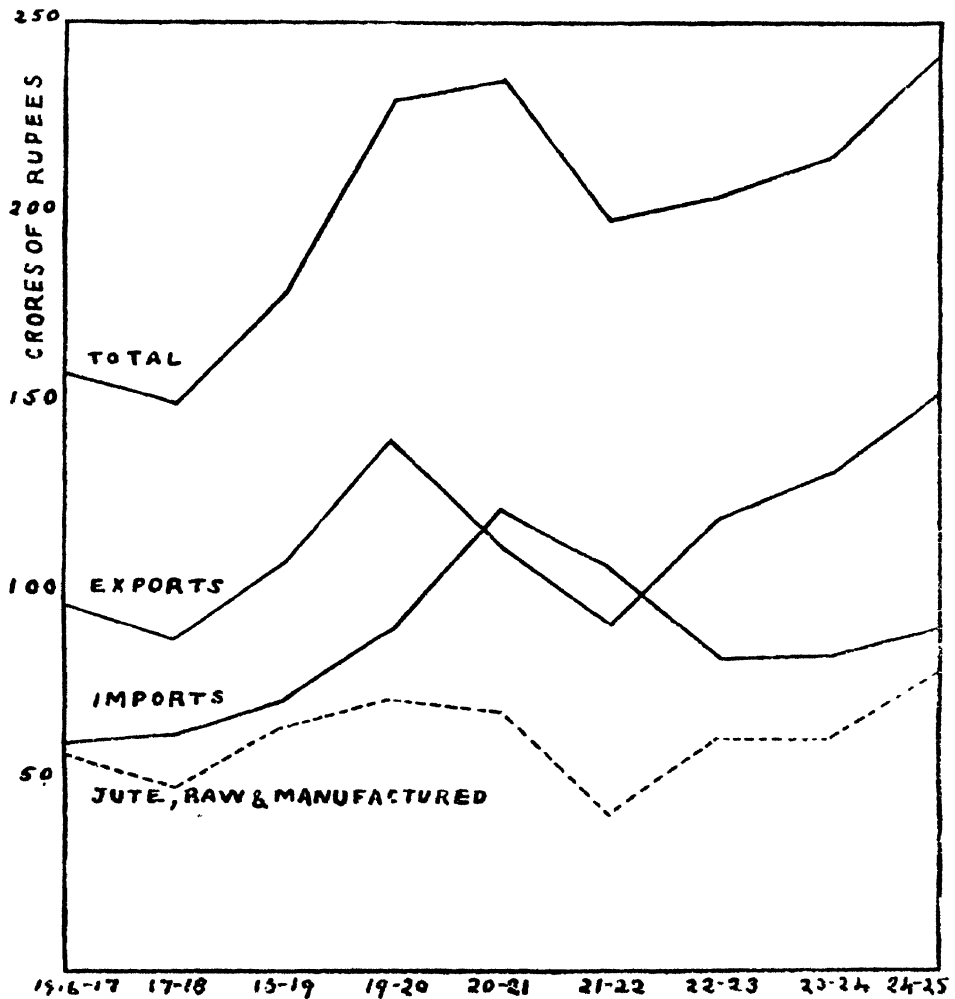
Import trade.

35. The improvement in the total value of the import trade was mainly due to increased imports of cotton and silk piece-goods. Imports of cotton piece-goods expanded in quantity from 754·08 to

DIAGRAM 1.—Foreign Sea Borne Trade.

NOTE.—(1) Excess of Imports over Exports from 1920-21 to 1921-22.

(2) The drop in trade which followed the post-war boom.



906·30 million yards and in value from Rs. 25·82 to Rs. 31·64 crores. The value of imported wrought iron and steel showed an advance from Rs. 647·71 lakhs to Rs. 756·09 lakhs, which represents a tonnage increase from 254·844 to 329·327. The imposition in the course of the year of protective duties on certain kinds of steel had the effect of depressing imports of machinery and mill-work from Rs. 600·84 to Rs. 461·36 lakhs, and of railway plant and rolling stock from Rs. 5·81 to 3·01 lakhs. Imports of refined sugar advanced from 155·332 to 244 491 tons, an increase which was in some measure due to a decline in the yield of Indian sugar and also partly to a fall in Java prices following on a slackening of the demand in Europe. With the restoration of the rate of duty on salt to its former level, trade was much brisker and imports from foreign countries advanced from 418,978 to 526,961 tons. Larger supplies of mineral oils from the United States and Borneo accounted for an increase from Rs. 318·69 to Rs. 371·33 lakhs. Imports of tobacco were almost stationary, while the United States still maintained its hold on the Indian market for unmanufactured tobacco, and supplied the entire demand of the Indian cigarette industry. The total quantity of all descriptions of liquors decreased from 1,496,381 gallons to 1,496,157 gallons while the value advanced from Rs. 95·10 lakhs to Rs. 95·25 lakhs. Other items showing noticeable increases in value were apparel, motor vehicles, paper and paste-board, hardware, instruments, apparatus and appliances, tea chests, books and printed matter, cycles and parts, arms and ammunition, soap, flax manufacture and manure; those showing noticeable decreases were dyeing, tanning, building and engineering materials, umbrellas and fittings, betelnuts, and articles imported by post. Imports of veneers for match boxes, and splints were valued at Rs. 2·72 lakhs and Rs. 71,861, respectively, Japan and Sweden being the chief sources of supply. It was noticed in September, 1924, that, in order to evade the special tariff imposed on splints, logs from which splints could be made were being imported in large quantities. Imports from the United Kingdom show increases of Rs. 497 lakhs under cotton goods, of Rs. 84 lakhs under metals and ores, and Rs. 23 lakhs under tea chests, which more than balanced the falling off in imports of railway materials

by Rs. 275 lakhs and of machinery by Rs. 96 lakhs. Imports from Java, Japan and the United States all showed appreciable increases, while the recovery of Germany, especially in the trade in metals, continued to be the most prominent feature of trade with Europe.

Export trade.

36. The increase in aggregate exports was mainly due to the strong demand for jute, tea and grain, which were as usual the most important articles of export constituting 77 per cent. of the total. This year the prices for jute were exceptionally high, with the result that, while the volume of exported jute manufactures expanded by about 9 per cent. from 743,752 to 809,190 tons, the advance in value from Rs. 42.12 to Rs. 51.61 crores represents an increase of over 22 per cent. To the same cause may be attributed the fact that raw jute ousted tea from second place with an advance in value from Rs. 19.92 to Rs. 28.89 crores and in volume from 659,216 to 691,346 tons. Tea had another very prosperous year, the total quantity expanding from 296,778,520 lb. to 299,746,815 lb. and the value from Rs. 28.41 crores to Rs. 30.09 crores. Other items showing an improved trade were grain, pulse and flour, hides and skins, metal and ores, raw cotton, raw hemp, mica, postal articles, coal, spices, tobacco and oils. Shipments of raw cotton from Calcutta advanced by 23 per cent., although the total exports from the whole of India declined. Items showing noticeable decreases were lac, seeds, opium, manure, indigo and raw silk. Lac began to feel the effects of American competition in the manufacture of the finished article. The total value of articles of re-exported foreign merchandise dropped, chiefly owing to contraction in reshipments of sugar, from Rs. 47 lakhs to Rs. 33,918. Re-exports of Tibetan wool increased from Rs. 13.27 lakhs to Rs. 22.88 lakhs. There was an increase in the total value of exports to the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, the United States, South America, Java, China and Japan.

Exchange.

37. The year opened with the rate for demand drafts at 1s. 4½d. from which point it rose gradually until it reached 1s. 6½d. the maximum for the year, on the 9th October 1924.

At this quotation the advance was checked by a rise in sterling and henceforth there was a steady fall to 1s. 5½d, the figure which prevailed at the close of the year. The improvement in rupee exchange led to a fall in the prices of imports, which, accompanied by a simultaneous rise in the rates obtained for exports, contributed in large measure to the favourable trade returns for the year. The rise in exchange also counteracted to some extent the effect of the duties imposed as a protective measure on certain kinds of imported steel.

VI.—Local Self-Government.

38. Owing to the amalgamation of the three suburban municipalities, Cossipur-Chitpore, Maniktola and Garden Reach with the Corporation of Calcutta, the number of municipalities in the Province decreased to 115. The general low incidence of taxation per head of population and the high percentage of persons within municipalities who are not included in the list of ratepayers produce an income which is in most cases quite inadequate for the improvement of sanitation, primary education, roads, water-supply and the other amenities which are usually supplied by municipalities under more favourable financial conditions. Ratepayers have not as a whole attained that stage of civic development at which they are willing to submit to higher impositions for the good of the community. Thus, although it appears that a considerably increased and properly distributed assessment would not bear hardly on any of the municipalities, any suggestion for enhancement of assessment is usually met by strong opposition on the part of the public. The Municipal Commissioners, aware of this fact, hesitate to incur the odium of their constituents and to lose their support at the next election by advancing any such proposals. The same lack of a consciousness of civic responsibility results in a failure to make the best even of the present assessments by exercising the powers with which municipalities have been endowed to enable them to enforce the payment of taxes. The total of arrears for the whole Province is now more than thirteen lakhs of rupees. In

Mufassal municipalities.

many cases no satisfactory explanation for these arrears has been forthcoming, but generally they are due to laxity in collections and to the neglect of the municipal executive to enforce regular and punctual payments by means of an impartial issue of warrants. It is gratifying to note, however, that there are some municipalities which insist on and procure regular payment of taxes.

39. In these conditions it is not surprising that there has been no marked improvement in administration during the period under review. Although certain office bearers have shown themselves conscientious workers fully alive to their responsibilities, it is often the case that Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen are so overburdened by their private affairs that they are unable to devote sufficient time to their public duties. This leads to a lack of supervision over staffs which are usually underpaid and none too competent. There are, however, signs that ratepayers in some places are becoming conscious of those failings and are rousing themselves to express dissatisfaction with such bad management. In certain places attention is being turned to various schemes especially those which have the improvement of public health and primary education as their object.

40. Members of the Congress and Swarajya parties were successful in gaining a number of seats and in some instances were actually returned in a majority. This resulted in no change in the method and spirit of administration and all members, irrespective of political views, co-operated in carrying on the work of the municipalities. The Bengal Municipal Bill, which aimed at enlarging the scope of municipal work by the relaxation of Government control and by enabling municipalities to enhance their revenues, was thrown out without discussion by the Legislative Council on the ground that this was a reactionary measure. Without legislation on those lines it is impossible to effect any extensive improvement in the working of municipalities.

District Boards.

41. Except in Midnapore, where work suffered to a great extent owing to the absence of a properly qualified District Engineer, and in Rangpur, where party faction was rife, the administration of

District Boards by non-official Chairmen continued on the whole to be satisfactory. The majority of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen evinced a keen interest in the discharge of their onerous duties which, involving, as they do, much touring and supervision, can only be adequately done at the cost of some sacrifice of private affairs. Financial stringency still to a great extent hampered the work of District Boards. With an expenditure that amounts to only four annas per head of population endeavour can touch only the fringe of necessity. There is a constant demand on the part of the public for a higher standard of development in education and communication. On the other hand the prevailing unhealthiness of the country calls for greater attention to water-supply, sanitation and medical relief. With a normal income that is almost stationary Boards can concentrate on any one scheme only at the cost of diverting funds from projects that are no less urgent. In spite of financial difficulties several District Boards have opened numerous centres for the treatment of malaria and kala-azar, while in some districts grants have been made to assist co-operative anti-malarial societies. Some Boards, having come to the conclusion that the provision of drinking water is a need of paramount importance, have largely increased their expenditure for that purpose. Up to the present no means of augmenting the resources of Boards to any considerable extent has been devised. Some hope of the improvement of conditions may lie in the extension throughout the districts of Union Boards which, on attaining a stage of development at which they become willing to impose local taxation to meet the elementary needs of the villages, will be likely to lessen the burden now resting upon District Boards.

42. Experience has shown that the unfounded belief that taxation under Union Boards is compulsory and that all tax-payers are liable to the maximum assessment has been one of the chief obstacles to the formation of such bodies. With a public unaccustomed to the idea of local taxation it has therefore been found desirable in places where strong opposition has been encountered, not to press for the creation of Union Boards. It has also been found that for the preliminary work of winning the confidence

Village Self-Government.

of the people it is essential to have Circle Officers on the spot and that little can be effected if officers are not appointed until after Boards have been constituted. In spite of those causes making for delay, the introduction of Boards progressed. The evil influences which hampered the growth and development of these institutions in their infancy are still present in certain areas, but in others have ceased to operate. Although the majority of the Boards are still reluctant to apply the powers of levying taxation with which they have been invested, others especially in the Dacca and Burdwan Divisions, have done so with good results. Much depends on the character and personality of the President and, where these have made themselves felt, the work done has been most satisfactory. Village roads engross most attention while the improvement of water-supply and village sanitation are not neglected. Where Union Benches and Union Courts have been formed, they have disposed of a satisfactory amount of minor criminal cases and civil suits and have proved popular with the villagers. Union Committees, which number 160, did little work and many of them are almost moribund.

VII.—Work of the Agriculture Department.

General.

43. Taken on the whole, the year 1924-25 was from the point of view of agriculture somewhat below normal. The western parts of the Province suffered to some extent from drought and the eastern districts from excess of rainfall and river floods; but in North Bengal the weather was favourable. While the outturn of *bhadoi* crops fell appreciably, there was a slight improvement from the previous year in the most important food crop, winter rice. The production of jute gave little cause for complaint and prices attained a record level. With the exception of Western Bengal, the condition of the cultivator was not unsatisfactory, the continuance of high prices for most articles of common use being in his case compensated for by the higher value of all the main crops.

Education.

44. It has for long been felt that the purely literary education which has in the past been provided in country schools for the sons of agriculturists and others is of little use in training them

for their ancestral vocations, and that it may even be an evil influence in so far as it tends to render them contemptuous of their fathers' lot without assuring them any outlet in other forms of employment. This problem has for some time been receiving anxious consideration and the conclusion arrived at was that there should be some modification of the present educational system by the introduction into school curricula of subjects bearing some relation to the daily life of the scholars and to the occupations which they were probably destined to follow. Attention was turned to the Punjab where an attempt to overcome this difficulty had already been made. In that Province the teaching of agriculture, the occupation of the vast majority of the people of India, had been introduced as an additional subject in middle schools. The training in this subject is based chiefly on practical work carried out on adjacent land and is confined to the elements of agriculture. It is not the intention of the scheme to turn those institutions into agricultural schools; but it is hoped ultimately to extend the course by adding instruction in the principles of co-operation and the elements of sanitation. Such a scheme would tend to give to education what has been called a "pre-vocational bias", and, if it achieved no more, would at least by its practical nature neutralize the effect of the purely literary character of the teaching hitherto provided in schools. In Bengal agriculture formed a part of the curriculum in only three schools and it was felt that every effort should be made to extend this form of teaching to all parts of the Province. A Committee was accordingly appointed to examine the system in vogue in the Punjab, and the report of the Committee is now under consideration.

45. A proposal is well advanced for the establishment of an Agricultural Institute for higher agricultural education in which emphasis will be laid on practical farming, while a University training in pure science will constitute a necessary preliminary to admission. The attendance at the Secondary Agricultural Schools at Chinsurah and Dacca has unfortunately been discouraging and it was found necessary to close down the former institution which has now been made over to a private syndicate.

Research.

46. The department has throughout been awake to the futility of scientific research divorced from any attempt to make the results of experiments accessible to the people at large, and the work in its laboratories at Dacca and elsewhere has always gone hand in hand with demonstration and propaganda. The keen demand from all quarters for departmental seed is ample testimony that the raiyat fully appreciates the benefits to be derived from the cultivation of improved strains of crops. The demand, indeed, so far exceeds the supply that the department could, if it so desired, ask almost any price for its products. It is, however, obvious that the adoption of such a policy would nullify the main object of the department which is not immediate profit, but an ultimate all-round improvement of the agricultural resources of the Province an aim which can be achieved only by selling at economic rates and by convincing the cultivator that it is a profitable investment to use only seed of the very best quality. It has already been calculated that the increased outturn in the Province resulting from the adoption of departmental crops of all kinds far exceeds the total annual cost of maintaining the department. In the case of jute alone it is a conservative estimate to put the area annually covered by departmental seed at 250,000 acres and the additional annual profit resulting from the employment of those improved strains must be somewhere in the region of ninety lakhs of rupees. Still further improvement in the outturn of jute may be looked for from a new race recently produced which, while equalling previous selections in amount of yield, is capable of producing a better quality of fibre. It is some measure of the magnitude of the task still remaining to be done when it is remembered that even in the case of jute, where the adoption of departmental seed has been comparatively rapid, there still remains nine-tenths of the ground to be covered. There has been some difference of opinion amongst authorities regarding the comparative importance of variety of seed and environment as determining factors in the production of fibre of good quality. In order to throw light on this point, an enquiry has been undertaken in collaboration with the

Indian Jute Mills Association and the Dundee Chamber of Commerce and the investigation is likely to be of great importance to all those interested in the growing of jute.

47. Satisfactory results have also attended investigations directed to the improvement of the rice crop. The department has evolved several strains of transplanted *aman* and high land *aus* paddy which are capable of yielding several maunds per acre more than ordinary varieties. These strains have proved particularly popular in East and North Bengal where they are now producing crops of excellent quality. One strain, specially adapted to the conditions prevalent in Malda district, has made rapid progress there, and attention is now being devoted in the selection of races suitable for the dry tracts of West Bengal.

48. Yellow *tanna* sugarcane has proved its superiority to *deshi* strains and is being more and more widely adopted. With a view to producing white sugar from the juice of the date palm, chemical research into the methods of refining date *gur* has been undertaken. Various other experiments are in progress in connection, amongst others, with the improvement of tobacco, of the "Comilla" cotton which grows in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and of other cotton strains suitable for West Bengal. Investigations have also been undertaken into the methods of manuring laterite soils, and a scheme has been launched for a survey of all the soils of the Province.

49. The district farms constitute the centres on which all propaganda is based and are the most convenient places for testing new varieties of crops in the conditions peculiar to each district. A new departure in this connection has been the setting aside of a portion of each farm to be run on purely economic lines. It is hoped by this means to demonstrate that the methods followed in those farms, far from involving abnormal expenditure, are really paying propositions within the reach of the poorest cultivator. A good example of this is the *khas mahal* farm at Kishoreganj, which, conducted as a demonstration centre under the *barga*

Propaganda.

system, has been able with its proceeds to meet practically the whole cost of management including the salaries of a superintendent and two demonstrators.

**Agricultural
Associations.**

50. It has to be admitted that a large proportion of the agricultural associations have not come up to anticipation and that many of them have actually reached a stage where they have ceased to perform any useful function. Experience has shown that these bodies cannot succeed unless they have amongst their members some individuals capable of understanding the aims of the association, and that, where such guidance is lacking, the association soon falls into a state of decay. That this is so is fully proved by the progress made by the Birbhum and Burdwan Associations which, under capable and enthusiastic guidance, have added still further to their record of good work especially along the lines of development of irrigation and the introduction of betel-vine cultivation. Several village associations have been started in the Dacca district, their main object being the cultivation of centralised block of improved types of rice; but it is still too early to form an estimate of the value of their labours.

Cattle breeding.

51. The cattle-breeding policy of the department may be divided into three heads, *viz.*:—

- (1) The production of a dual-purpose animal for the ordinary cultivator who requires both a strong bullock and a cow of good milking capacity.
- (2) The production of cows of heavy milking capacity for the milk supply in large towns.
- (3) The production of fodder.

The first part of the problem is being studied and is under solution at the Rangpur Cattle Farm. Here as a result of selective breeding the minimum standard of milk has already been raised to 2,500 lb. for each period of lactation, which is roughly equivalent to five seers per day, and ultimately it is hoped to add a further 500 lb. to this standard. Young bulls of good stature are available at Rangpur and each Government farm is being supplied with a bull

of similar type, while the balance will be made available for purchase by the public. At places where there are Government bulls, cultivators have shown that they would rather have their cows served by them than by the weak and stunted bulls usually found in the villages.

52. At Dacca there is a small Sindhi herd the object of which, as at Rangpur, is the evolution of a dual purpose animal. Recently an Ayrshire bull, whose ancestry on the female side had good milking records, has been purchased and has arrived at the farm. It is hoped by crossing this bull with the indigenous cows rejected from the Rangpur herd ultimately to achieve a general improvement of milking strain.

53. Closely bound up with the improvement of the milk supply is the question of the supply of fodder. In Bengal the cultivator, in his anxiety to bring every possible inch of ground under jute, paddy and other crops, has in the great majority of places entirely failed to set aside any ground for the production of fodder for his cattle. In order to improve the fodder supply and to discover what kinds are best suited to local conditions the department has collected seeds of many races of fodder plants from all parts of India and several foreign countries, and those tests have given very promising results.

54. In Eastern Bengal, where most of the country is liable to periodical inundation, the problem of irrigation scarcely arises, but in Western Bengal, which depends entirely on rainfall, a single irrigation often means the difference between a good paddy crop and no crop at all. A regular supply of water by irrigation is also indispensable for such crops as sugarcane and fodder. In order that the extension of irrigation in Birbhum may be under competent guidance, a special irrigation officer has been appointed, while the appointment of a similar officer for Hooghly and of an agricultural engineer is under consideration. **Irrigation.**

55. There are eleven nurseries under the Sericultural Department whose main task is the scientific rearing of silk worms with **Sericulture.**

a view to producing disease-free cocoons. Selected rearers who are *ex-students* of the sericultural schools at Rajshahi and Berhampore are given financial assistance by Government for the erection of model rearing houses, and their work of multiplying the pure seed supplied by nurseries is closely supervised by representatives of the department. It is estimated that the produce of pure seed supplied to rearers both from this source and from nurseries amounts to about one-third of the total for the Province. Experiments on the manuring of soils for the cultivation of mulberry have increased the yield of leaf at the nurseries thus reducing the necessity of purchasing from elsewhere, and it is hoped, by passing on the results of those experiments to outside rearers, to raise the general standard of mulberry cultivation in the Province. Experiments with E. C., which was recently introduced as a cheap antiseptic in place of formalin, continue to give satisfactory results at one-third of the former cost.

56. The work of educating the sons of silk-rearers was continued at the sericultural schools at Rajshahi and Berhampore. The Bengal Silk Committee was reconstituted on more popular lines by including persons interested in silk-rearing and in the silk trade, while it is gratifying to note that as a result of special propaganda at Behala and Alipore, the *bhadralok* of these places have been induced to take up silk-rearing as an occupation.

VIII.—Working of the Co-operative Societies.

Development and administration.

57. The rate of expansion of the co-operative movement achieved in preceding years was fully maintained during the year under report. The increase in the number of societies was, as usual, most marked in the credit section. The credit movement has taken firm root and is fast spreading throughout the Province. Its importance as a sound system of rural finance is now fully recognised, its methods are being better appreciated and its requirements more largely met. It has inspired public confidence to an increasing extent and is attracting with ease ample funds for its purpose, so that there can be little doubt that the movement will

DIAGRAM 2.—Development of Agricultural Credit Societies.

NOTE.—(1) Marked rise in Reserve and Share Capital.

(2) Recent rise in Members' Deposits.

No. of Societies.

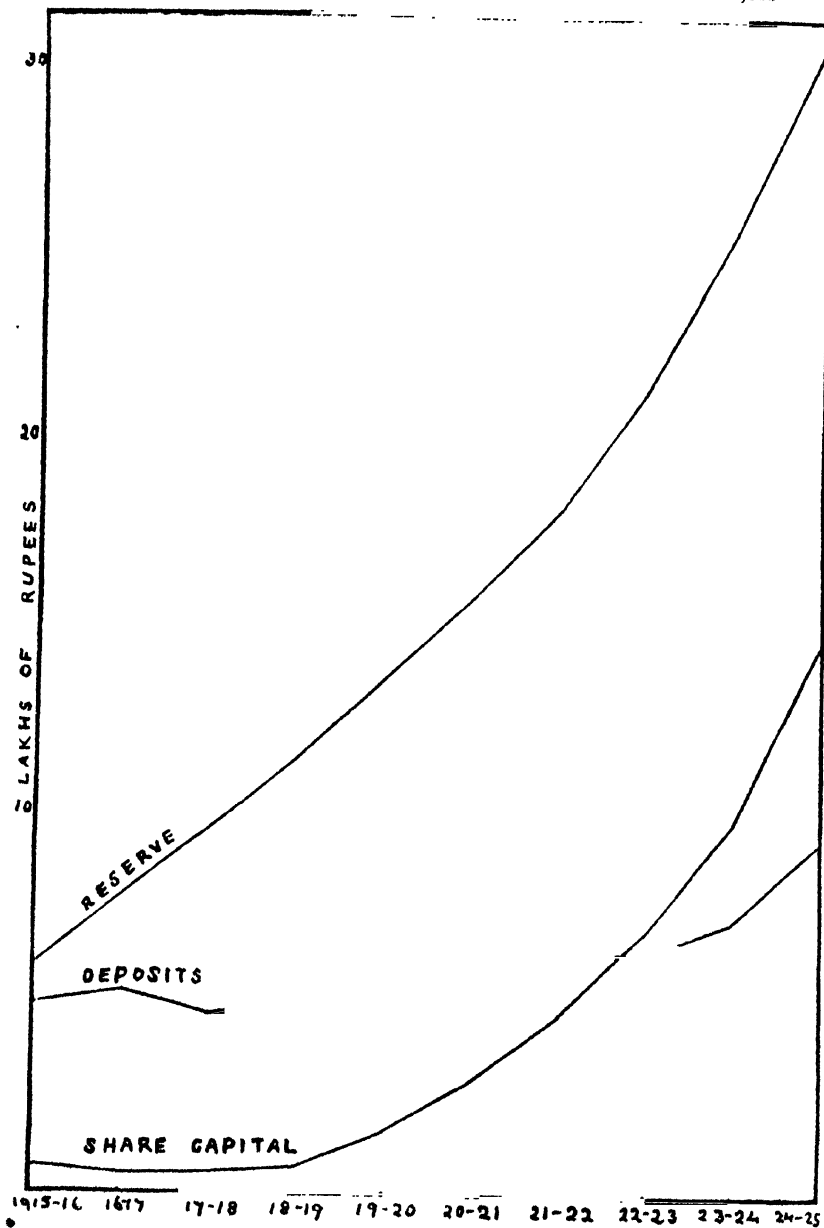
1915-16.....2,067

1924-25.....9,835

No. of Members.

94,006

246,043



before long come to be regarded as an integral part of the financial machinery of the country.

58. While the movement extends, the need for consolidating the position already gained was not overlooked, and attention continued to be devoted to improving the working of existing societies. The general soundness of the movement, especially on its banking side, gives little cause for apprehension. The defects that still exist are such as may be removed by continued supervision and patient instruction. It is clearly realised that the education of the members of co-operative bodies in the principles and practice of co-operation is an essential ingredient of the movement and that further progress in this direction depends entirely on the attention devoted by central societies to improving the standard of village membership, coupled with the exercise of strict control over the supervisors who are entrusted with the work of instructing members of village societies in their duties and responsibilities.

59. The distinction between long-term and short-term loans, which is being gradually adopted, will greatly strengthen the financial position of the movement, and will also check the tendency which has manifested itself in recent years, to give undue preference to mortgage and material security to the neglect of personal security and the moral elements of co-operation. Attempts are being made to promote thrift on the part of individual members by the use of home-safe boxes, while a scheme has also been inaugurated under which well-managed village societies are permitted to have with their Central Banks drawing accounts against which members may operate by means of cheques. Deposits from non-members in Central Banks are also welcomed and it is noteworthy that the amount received from this source alone advanced to over one and one quarter crores of rupees. Progress in these directions will greatly assist in the promotion of banking habits which will be of incalculable benefit to the country; for such an achievement will not only prevent the absorption of metallic currency but also stimulate the use of internal capital for the development of the resources of the province. This movement shows signs of being able to establish

- through the Provincial Bank a link with the money market which

will be of great advantage to agriculture, trade, and commerce, and will tend to solve some of the most difficult problems connected with the money market in Calcutta. In this connection it is gratifying to note that the prosperity of the Provincial Bank continued unabated during the year. The Bank was able to meet fully the needs of its members in respect of financial accommodation; and its relations with its constituent societies were all that could be desired.

**Special forms of
the co-operative
movement.**

60. Attention continued to be devoted with satisfactory results to the development of special forms of co-operative societies. A new type of society, called "Land Mortgage Bank", whose special object is to rid members of the incubus of debt, was registered in the Naogaon (Tanja Mahal towards the close of the year. As the name suggests, the bank will take over the entire outside debts of the members against mortgages of all their property. The members will be allowed a long period for repayment of their dues, the bank granting them cash credits to meet their annual recurring expenditure.

**Agricultural
purchase and
Purchase and
Sale Societies.**

61. There was a slight increase in the number of agricultural purchase and purchase and sale societies which include jute and paddy sale societies. The Sarisabari Supply and Sale Society, originally formed with the intention of selling the produce of its members direct to jute mills, has in practice found it more advantageous to eliminate the local middleman by dealing on the spot with the purchasing agencies of certain big Calcutta firms. In order to enable the paddy sale societies to effect an advantageous disposal of their stock and to remove the difficulties they are now experiencing in this direction, a scheme for the establishment of a central godown in Calcutta received the approval of Government. It is expected that this godown will form the nucleus of a central society to which all the paddy sale societies in the Province will ultimately be federated.

**Industrial Socie-
ties.**

62. There was a large increase in the number of industrial societies of fishermen, weavers and other miscellaneous artisans. In Murshidabad a factory for the reeling of silk filature was

registered during the year, and the quality of the thread turned out there will not only be uniform but also decidedly superior to that reeled on ordinary hand machines. The Bagerhat Weaving Union in Khulna contemplates a further extension of its operations by adding eight more power looms to its stock. Two fishermen's societies in Nadia and one in Midnapore have been successful in obtaining fishery leases for their members. The Dacca Industrial Union sold conch shells to the value of almost one lakh of rupees to the conch shell workers' societies in that town, and with the support of the Department, obtained a renewal of its contract with the Government of Madras for the shell catches at Ramnud and Tuticorin. The main obstacle to the expansion of these industrial and artisans' societies is the difficulty experienced by them in securing sufficient funds for their purpose. They are still in their infancy and have not been able to gain the confidence of the investing public. The Central Banks, accustomed to the landed security of credit societies, are generally reluctant to finance them; while the industrial unions formed to solve this and other problems have not yet been able to make much headway. In the absence of other support, State aid thus becomes necessary, at least in the initial stages. Proposals have therefore been made and are under consideration for the amendment of the existing rules for the grant of loans by Government to co-operative societies, so that they may meet the requirements of special types of societies, and for the adoption of a system under which Government will give to financing institutions a guarantee for a part of the loss that may be incurred in providing financial assistance to such societies.

63. In spite of the partial set-back caused by a breach in the large Amjhor weir erected by one of the irrigation societies, the co-operative irrigation movement made further rapid progress especially in the districts of Birbhum and Bankura. The total irrigable area covered by the societies now in existence in those two districts is 62,000 bighas. Extensive propaganda was carried on by the departmental staff which was strengthened for this purpose during the year.

Irrigation Societies.

Milk Societies.

64. The co-operative milk societies and the Milk Union to which they are affiliated more than maintained their past fine record of progress. There was a further increase in the number of societies and in profits, while in the course of the last five years the daily outturn has advanced from 20 seers to 100 maunds. It is now realised that there is great scope for the expansion of the co-operative milk supply and the Corporation of Calcutta is considering the question of subsidizing a wider extension of the Union.

**Co-operative
Housing Scheme.**

65. A novel departure is the drawing up of schemes for the organisation of two housing societies, one in Calcutta and the other in Darjeeling, and Government has been approached with a view to determining the principles on which loans may be advanced from State funds to societies of this class.

**The Naogaon
Ganja Society.**

66. The Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society continued its good work. It earned a profit of Rs. 2 lakhs during the year and, as in previous years, spent a large sum for the maintenance of a number of charitable institutions.

**Anti-malarial
Societies.**

67. There was a striking expansion in the number of anti-malarial societies, the chief object of which is the organisation of the people for the improvement of rural sanitation. These societies have already been instrumental in improving public health in their respective areas and are now applying themselves to the solution of the problem of pure water-supply by the sinking of tube wells in places where there is a scarcity of drinking water. The organisation of health boards at suitable centres for groups of anti-malarial societies with the object of systematically collecting health statistics has also been taken in hand.

**The Organization
Society.**

68. The Bengal Organization Society continued its usual activities and published the *Bengal Co-operative Journal*, a quarterly in English, and the *Bhandar*, a monthly in Bengali. The society has been reorganised and registered in order that it may be a real federation of all the co-operative societies in the Province charged with the duty of carrying on propaganda and publicity work, organizing diverse types of societies, ensuring effective supervision.

over all registered societies, organizing training classes for co-operative workers, and acting as a general information bureau on the subject of co-operation.

IX.—Work of the Department of Industries.

69. As in the previous year the activities of this department continued to be hampered by financial difficulties. The appointment of a headmaster for the Kanchrapara Technical School, the opening of the Calcutta Technical School, the building and equipment of which have been completed, and new schemes for the establishment or improvement of other technical and industrial schools have all been kept in abeyance for lack of funds.

Financial
difficulties.

70. In spite of this handicap, the department rendered considerable help to small industrialists in the form of technical advice and information regarding trade facilities, and to rural workers by the demonstration of modern methods of tanning, handloom weaving, the manufacture of bamboo and cane basket-making, wool-spinning, blanket-weaving and coir-making. The Calcutta Research Tannery brought to a successful conclusion experiments on the manufacture of box sides from dry salted cow hides of chrome picking bands, lizard skins, the bleaching of gut and the retting of cocoanut husks for the manufacture of coir. Investigations on the tannage of sole leather with a mixture of *sonali* and *goran* barks, the manufacture of chamois leather, the curing of hides, the preparation of pigment finishes and the bleaching of guts are still in progress and give promise of results which will be of the greatest importance for this industry. Many small tannery concerns were given help in finishing their leathers by machine process, while a survey of hides and skins in the Province for the purpose of ascertaining their leather-making properties has also been undertaken. Successful experiments were conducted at Serampore Weaving Institute in the weaving of coarse jute fabrics, tussar silk reeling, carpet manufacture and the extraction of cocoanut fibres.

Research and
Propaganda.

71. The problems of the match industry, especially the questions of wood supply and of the damp-proofing of matches, continued to receive close attention. Every effort has been made to

The match industry.

devise methods of manufacture which will enable small local factories to compete successfully with foreign firms and with the larger local firms which draw their experience from abroad. The year has been marked by a further development of this industry although most of the concerns are very small in scope, deficient in capital and in competent management, and depend for their existence on a small local market. During the year operations were started by four large factories, one of which has solved the problem of a regular wood supply by leasing certain areas of the Darjeeling forests.

**Demonstrations
etc.**

72. The district weaving schools and peripatetic centres continued to give to village weavers demonstrations of the vibrating box loom, of the fly-shuttle loom for ordinary weaving, and of jacquard and dobby accessories for fine work and the ornamentation of fabrics, while jute-spinning and weaving with hand machinery were introduced as a profitable subsidiary occupation in jute-growing areas. A special effort was made to introduce fly-shuttle looms and other small scale industries among the Santals of Western Bengal with a view to improving their economic condition. The Calcutta Research Tannery provided special facilities for the training of apprentices, several of whom, it is satisfactory to note, on the completion of their training, started business concerns of their own.

73. The exhibits of the Calcutta Research Tannery, especially the tanned lizard skins, attracted much attention at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. It is expected that the participation of the tannery in the Empire Exhibition will result in the establishment of business connections between the leather trade in India and firms in the United Kingdom and other countries.

Publications.

74. The department published two reports, one on the survey of small and cottage industries which was carried out during 1921 to 1923, and the other on the findings of the committee appointed by Government to inquire into the problem of unemployment amongst educated Bengalis and Anglo-Indians. The recommendations made in the latter report are receiving the consideration of Government. A pamphlet published by the department on the installation of small weaving factories is available for purchase.

and a vernacular pamphlet on the improvement of the manufacture of shellac is being distributed gratis.

75. Progress in the establishment of small industries and the provision of machinery on the hire purchase system has been hampered by the absence of legislation for State aid to industries. The question of introducing a State Aid to Industries Bill is now under the consideration of Government.

State aid to industries.

76. Government has sanctioned the establishment of an Industrial Laboratory at a cost of Rs. 50,000. This institution will meet a long-felt want and facilitate research into industrial problems of an intricate nature.

Industrial laboratory.

X.—Factories and Labour Conditions.

77. The factory inspection staff experienced difficulty in applying to certain types of factory, especially those that were seasonal or worked short hours, all the provisions of the amended Indian Factories Act which came into force in 1922. With a view to removing those anomalies, recommendations for further amendments were made to the Government of India. The Workmen's Compensation Act came into force on 1st July, 1924, and the Commissioner appointed under the Act, who had been under special training in England, took over charge in October. The novelty of this form of legislation probably explains the paucity of disputes instituted during the first six months of the working of the Act; but it is of interest to note that the introduction of this Act is believed by the Commerce Department to account, at least in part, for a rather abnormal increase in the number of slight accidents to workmen.

Factories and mines.

78. During the year ending 31st March, 1925, the number of industrial disputes accompanied by stoppages of work was 49, involving about 83,100 workmen and an aggregate economic loss of 336,400 working days. There were 17 fewer strikes than last year and a gratifying drop of about 75 per cent. in the number of lost

Labour conditions.

working days. The strikes, which were all of short duration, occurred for the most part in jute and cotton mills, in engineering works and the conservancy staffs of municipalities. Almost half of the disputes arose out of questions of wages or bonus, about one-fifth were occasioned by discharge, dismissal, or disciplinary action against employees, while only two involved questions of leave and hours of work. About 55 per cent. of the strikes ended in favour of the employers, in 16 per cent. work was resumed either as a result of compromise or pending negotiations, while in only about 29 per cent. were the men successful in gaining their demands either in whole or in part.

79. A noteworthy event of the year was the reconstitution by Government of the existing machinery for dealing with labour disputes affecting public utility services. The new Conciliation Panel was authorised to function for one year with effect from the 1st April, 1924.

80. Eleven new labour associations were created during the year in various parts of the Province; but it does not necessarily follow that this has materially added to the number of workers included in the Trade Union movement. The increase in the number of organisations may be attributed to the policy of consulting representative labour bodies regarding the nomination of delegates to the International Labour Conference. Of the events connected with the activities of labour associations the most important were the Indian Seamen's Conference held in Calcutta in April and the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Conference held at Mymensingh in May. At the former, resolutions were passed regarding facilities for finding employment and advocating reforms in the existing methods of recruitment of seamen. The retrenchment measures adopted by the Bengal Nagpur Railway authorities continued to engage the attention of the Indian Labour Union at Kharagpur. Domestic quarrels led to the dissolution of the old executive of the Uriya Labour Union, Calcutta, and to the substitution in its place of an entirely new body of office-bearers. An endeavour was made by labour leaders in Bengal to form a pro-

DIAGRAM 3.—Birth and Death Rates.

NOTE.—(1) Increase of deaths from influenza in 1918.

(2) Excess of deaths over births from 1918 to 1921.

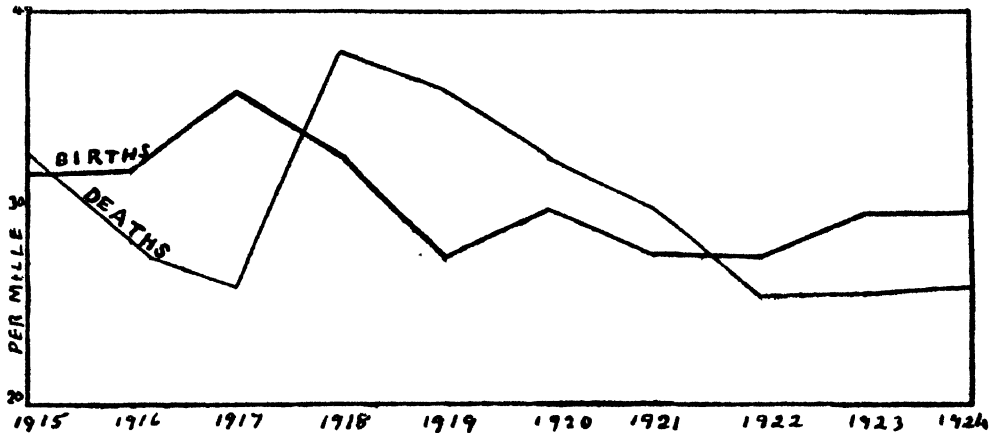
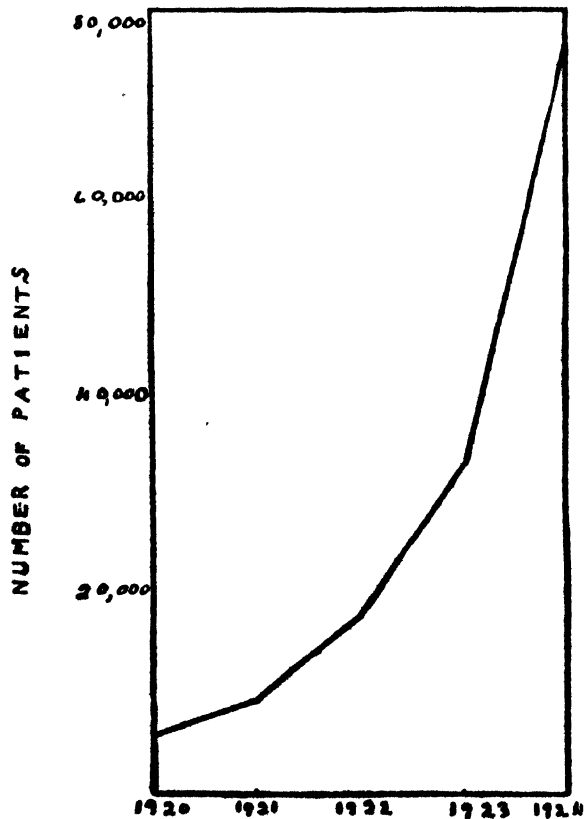


DIAGRAM 4.—Patients treated for Kalaazar at District Hospitals and Dispensaries.

NOTE.—Marked increase in the last 4 years.



vincial committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress; but the Executive Council of the Congress ruled that the matter should be held in abeyance till the affiliation of a fair number of labour organisations in Bengal had been secured.

XI.—Public Health.

81. The condition of the health of the people during 1924 remained on the whole much the same as in the previous year. There is, however, proof of a gradual improvement in the fact that, compared with the average for the last ten years, the death-rate decreased in every Division and markedly so in Burdwan, while Mymensingh and Rangpur are the only districts which show a definite increase of mortality. In spite of this improvement, the detailed statistics of health given in Part II of this report make it clear how great remains the task of bringing preventable diseases under control.

82. During the year there has been steady progress in the development of preventive measures against kala-azar, malaria and cholera through the agency of voluntary organisations. Already there are indications that the apathetic indifference and even resentment to any sanitary progress which have been age-long obstacles to the improvement of the health of the masses are gradually being dissipated, and there are signs of a growing determination to unite in using the discoveries of science in ridding the country of the scourge of disease. The credit for this advance lies not only with the staff of the Public Health Department and the District Health Officers but also in large measure with the leaders and members of voluntary bodies of the type of the anti-malarial societies which have done such good work under the enthusiastic and stimulating guidance of Rai Dr. Gopal Chandra Chatterjee Bahadur. Voluntary work of this nature has been given all possible assistance by Government through the Department of Public Health as well as by grants to District Boards and to the Central Anti-malarial Society.

83. In the past it had been found that there was often undue delay in receiving from district headquarters supplies of disinfectants for the purpose of checking outbreaks of cholera in outlying parts of the mufassal. In order to eliminate this delay, a scheme was devised for sending disinfectants and vaccine in anticipation of outbreaks direct to Subdivisional Officers in areas where this disease is endemic with instructions to distribute them to Local Boards and voluntary societies. To the prompt action taken along those lines with, in certain instances, the aid of the local police and village chowkidars, must be attributed a great proportion of the success which crowned the efforts to prevent this disease from spreading throughout the Province, with the result that, in a year when cholera was prevalent in most other parts of India, Bengal remained particularly immune. The anti-cholera vaccine which proved so effective last year in preventing the spread of cholera in Birbhum, continued to give good results.

Cholera.

84. Cholera was worse in 1924 than in 1923, but as noted above it is remarkable that almost for the first time in history Bengal did not share in the severe epidemic which attacked most other provinces of India. The disease was most prevalent in the Burdwan, Dacca and Presidency Divisions. A study of the disease suggests that cholera is endemic in certain areas and districts whence it is annually spread by human communication. Intensive preventive measures in these particular areas, especially prior to the epidemic season, are required to stamp out the disease. Facilities have been given to local bodies for the free distribution of the cholera vaccine which has proved so effective in combating the disease in Java and the Phillipine Islands.

Small-pox.

85. From the knowledge of the well-established fact that epidemics of small-pox occur at intervals of five to six years it was anticipated that a recrudescence of small-pox was due in 1925. There was, in fact, an increase in the number of death from 4,236 in 1923 to 5,567 in the year under report. The outbreak was most virulent in the Presidency Division, mortality being chiefly localised in Calcutta and its surrounding areas, where sporadic outbreaks occurring towards the end of 1924 eventually culminated in

a severe epidemic. Eastern Bengal was but slightly affected. A study of the age incidence of the disease in Bengal reveals how badly re-vaccination is neglected. The immunity conferred by vaccination in childhood gradually wears off leaving the young adult unprotected; whereas re-vaccination at 12 years of age would reduce incidence and mortality to a great extent.

86. There was a small outbreak of plague confined to Calcutta **Plague.** which resulted in 33 deaths. There was no outbreak of this disease in any other part of the Province.

87. Although the number of deaths from fevers of all kinds **Fevers.** showed a slight increase over that of the previous year, malaria was responsible for fewer deaths than in 1923. This may probably be attributed to the exceptionally low temperatures experienced during last cold weather. There has been a surprising increase from 5,708 in 1921 to 1,30,952 in 1924—in the total number of patients treated for kala-azar at dispensaries and special treatment centres of all classes. Although this increase may, in large measure, be attributed to wider knowledge of the disease and to increased facilities for treatment, there is still some evidence to suggest that the disease is now more prevalent than it used to be in the districts of Mymensingh, Rangpur, Tippera, Noakhali and Khulna. With the extension of facilities for treatment and the adoption of newer and more effective remedies, such as Urea Stibamine, there is reason to hope that a marked reduction in mortality from this disease will eventually be achieved. The mode of infection is still undiscovered.

XII.—Education.

88. Education in Bengal during the year 1924-25 had many **General.** masters. At its commencement and for the first few months Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Huq was in charge; subsequently for the middle period of the year His Excellency the Governor assumed control; at its close Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri was in charge for a short time. In conditions such as these nothing in the nature of a constructive policy was possible, and no large or

important development involving legislation was found practicable. Education like other transferred subjects became a pawn in the political struggle, and the only measures of improvement possible were those which were narrow in scope and could be carried through without reference to the legislature. Before passing on to a summary of the year's work, it is necessary to record that the Legislative Council by voting the necessary funds at the August session remedied, so far as was in its power, the grave situation created by its almost total refusal of the salaries of the inspecting staff in March, 1924. This action did not, however, entirely repair the consequences of its former vote. A body of hardworking public servants had been needlessly subjected to anxiety and loss of prestige which undoubtedly impaired the standard of their work, and it was not good for the morale of the departmental inspecting staff to be made to feel that their labours were so little appreciated that a majority of the elected representatives did not care whether an adequate staff were retained or not.

The Universities.

89. The Universities of Calcutta and Dacca continued their work during the year without notable changes. The Calcutta University year was overshadowed by great and irreparable losses. At the commencement of the period its two outstanding personalities were Sir Ashutosh Mukherji, who had been Vice-Chancellor five times, and Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu, who had succeeded Sir Ashutosh in that office in the previous year. Both died in the course of the year, and it is impossible to estimate the extent of the loss to the University entailed by the deaths of these two leaders. What Sir Ashutosh had been to the University was clearly put by His Excellency the Chancellor when he said that Sir Ashutosh was the University and the University was Sir Ashutosh. Mr. Basu's wide experience both in India and in Europe made him peculiarly valuable as Vice-Chancellor at a time when several proposals of the Sadler Commission were receiving serious discussion with a view to putting them into early operation. Upon his death Sir Ewart Greaves became Vice-Chancellor. His conduct of the almost insupportable burdens which that office involves received a well-deserved tribute from His Excellency the Chancellor

at the Convocation of March, 1925; but it is becoming abundantly clear that this task would be a heavy one even for a full-time official and that the time for honorary Vice-Chancellors is almost past.

90. The assurance which was given by the Chancellor that Government's memorial to Sir Ashutosh's memory would take the form of the stabilisation of the Post-Graduate Department led to the appointment of a committee to investigate the possibilities of retrenchment and to propose measures for placing the department on a more stable basis. Shortly after the close of the period under review, the committee presented a report in which the majority proposed a very considerable increase in expenditure, while the minority urged more moderate demands. The Senate, accepting the proposals of the majority, decided to approach Government for an annual recurring grant of three lakhs of rupees.

91. Dacca University continued its work on its own lines. An attempt to adjust the duration of the Honours Courses in the two Universities was made by Dr. Hartog, the Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University, who brought this matter before the Advisory Committee for Higher Education and, as a result, Calcutta University agreed to examine the possibility of falling into line with Dacca University Commission. There are, however, many difficulties in the way, and a final decision is not likely to be formulated at an early date.

92. The Moslem Hall at Dacca continued to contribute to the advancement of Moslem education in Eastern Bengal and it is hoped that the Calcutta Islamia College, the foundation stone of which was laid in December by His Excellency the Chancellor, will achieve similar results in Western Bengal. A sectarian College for Moslems in Calcutta has been a persistent demand on their part for nearly half a century and the dream is, at last, within sight of realisation.

93. The general condition of secondary education remained unsatisfactory throughout the year. In order that the entirely inadequate pay of teachers might be augmented, Government

Secondary Education.

raised the fees in all Government schools—an example which was followed by a number of aided and other private institutions. By this means and with the assistance of a special grant voted for this purpose, substantial increases of pay have been made in many schools, and the situation has to that extent been relieved. No general improvement will, however, be effected until the University decides to co-operate by prescribing a minimum rate of fee sufficient to ensure that in all recognised schools a reasonable minimum salary is financially possible. This it is unwilling to do and schools with inadequate rates of pay continue to exist and to be recognised. The insistence on a Provident Fund as a condition of recognition will effect some improvement of the position of teachers, but salary rates are in many cases so low that the benefit to be derived from such a fund is somewhat illusory. In connection with the revision of the Matriculation Regulations Government announced its tentative conclusions and indicated sympathy with many of the University's aims, which include a proposal for the use of the vernacular as a medium of instruction in all the classes of high schools as well as in examinations. There is, however, especially in Moslem circles, a certain amount of opposition to this suggestion. As an experimental measure Government reduced the age of candidates for Matriculation from sixteen to fifteen years. This concession to a popular demand was generally welcomed; but the total abolition of the age limit, as has been proposed in certain quarters, is fraught with manifest dangers.

Primary Education.

94. The number of local bodies that came forward during the year with schemes for expansion on the now well-known "half and half" basis was disappointingly small. The necessity for finding half the cost, both capital and recurring, renders municipalities or Union Boards reluctant to formulate such schemes. The Panchayati Union Scheme still remains the main agency through which primary education is spread in the rural districts. Funds were allotted during the year for the construction of eighty-four Panchayati schools for boys. This scheme is popular because practically the whole cost falls on the Provincial Government. Both schemes, as worked at present, are mere palliatives and make but

little impression on the illiteracy which prevails practically throughout the Province. No real progress is possible without a comprehensive Bill placing the responsibility for the foundation of schools wherever they are needed upon local bodies or local *ad hoc* committees, and in one way or other raising or compelling them to raise the bulk of the necessary funds by new taxation. It is one of the most remarkable features of the present situation that men are found who demand the introduction of compulsory primary education, but hold up their hands in horror at the suggestion that any one other than "Government" should pay for it.

95. The depletion of the forces of the department continued during the year. Recruitment or appointment both of Indians and Europeans to the Indian Educational Service having been stopped by the Secretary of State, it has become very difficult to engage new men, except those who are willing to start in the Bengal Educational Service. Almost all vacancies are now filled by promotion. Mr. E. F. Oaten was confirmed as Director of Public Instruction early in the year under review. Mr. Wordsworth proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement in 1924, and was followed by Mr. Gunn in 1925. Miss Brock, who for 20 years did so much for women's education, also retired from the service. Rai Kumudini Kanta Banerji Bahadur, for so long Principal of the Rajshahi College, died shortly after retirement. The Indian Educational Service, as a service, appears in the light of the Lee Commission's recommendations, and the Secretary of State's action subsequent thereto, to have no future. But the work which it did, still has to be performed, and it is doubtful whether, in spite of rapid political developments, Bengal desires to dispense entirely with Englishmen either in its inspecting or its college staffs. A very early decision on this point is desirable, since we are already within sight of the time when the Englishmen working in official educational posts in Bengal may be counted on the fingers of the hand.

**Controlling and
Inspecting
Agency.**

96. The report of the Dacca Vocational Educational Committee was under the consideration of Government, and conclusions were

Miscellaneous.

reached which will shortly be embodied in a resolution. The Unemployment Committee made various suggestions relating to education which have since been under discussion. The Presidency College Committee had not completed its labours at the close of the period. It had, however, submitted two valuable *ad interim* reports, and its conclusions will probably have a considerable bearing on the future of the College. The development of women's education was marked by the inauguration of an experiment at Dacca which aims at testing how far education within the zenana can be extended by means of a system of periodical assignments. A special feature of the year was the Educational Exhibition which was arranged by Mr. M. P. West, Principal, Teachers' Training College, which gave visitors an opportunity of seeing in practice some of the newer methods of education including the Dalton Laboratory Plan, which has been introduced in the Armenitola School. European education called for no comment, but mention must be made of the munificent gift of eleven lakhs of rupees made by Sir Paul Chater to his old school La Martiniere in Calcutta. This was the one bright feature of a year which, in the absence of any comprehensive scheme of improvement, was otherwise uninspiring.

XIII.—The Legislative Council.

Changes in office-bearers.

97. Major Hassan Suhrawardy having resigned his membership from the 1st January 1925, a casual vacancy occurred in the position of the Deputy President which was filled by the election of Dr. A. Suhrawardy. The term of the appointed President, the Hon'ble Sir Evan Cotton having expired, the Council on the 12th August elected Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray as President.

General.

98. The rejection by the Council of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, its treatment of the budget demands, its refusal to vote the salaries of Ministers and the results of that refusal have been set out in an earlier section of this Summary. Attention may now be turned to the general working of the Council.

99. The Acts passed by the Council in 1925 were—

Acts.

- (1) the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act.
- (2) the President's Salary Act.
- (3) the Bengal Highways Act.
- (4) the Dacca University (Amendment) Act, and
- (5) the Bengal Food Adulteration (Amendment) Act.

The first conferred the status of occupancy raiyat upon persons who have continuously held land in areas which have been declared to constitute villages at a date subsequent to the period of 12 years which previously applied in such cases. The second fixed the monthly salary of the President at Rs. 3,000. The third provided for the better maintenance of Government roads, the prevention of encroachment thereon and the regulation of traffic. The fourth gave an undertaking that Government would contribute annually to the University of Dacca a sum of five and a half lakhs of rupees. The fifth conferred power on the Chairman of a Municipality to order or consent to prosecutions for offences committed within the Municipality. None of these Acts is of outstanding importance.

100. Perhaps the most important Bill introduced by a private member was the Hindu Public Trusts Bill for the control of Hindu religions and other charitable public trusts. The Howrah Bridge Bill which had been introduced in 1924 and circulated amongst members was referred to a Select Committee.

Bills.

101. The keen interest which members take in the work of the Council was demonstrated by the number of important resolutions tabled by them. During the year 224 resolutions were admitted and balloted for, 50 discussed, 4 withdrawn, 7 lost and 21 carried. The most important carried were a resolution to grant Rs. 50,00,000 for the development of the Port of Chittagong, three resolutions recommending a recurring grant of three lakhs of rupees to the University of Calcutta, one resolution recommending the removal of Sex Disqualification from the electoral rolls, a resolution recommending the retransfer of the Sylhet District from Assam to Bengal and a resolution to the effect that

Resolutions

two members of the Council who are under restraint under the provisions of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act should be brought before the Council for the purpose of taking the oath of allegiance.

Questions.

102. The ambition of the representatives of the people to prove their usefulness in Council was strikingly shown by the number of questions put by them. Even under the restrictions now in force these totalled 785 and embraced a wide field of interest. They dealt, to quote only a few with problems of irrigation and communication, the police force, the welfare of State prisoners, the conduct of the executive and the report of the Lec Commission.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

Physical Features of the country, area, climate and chief staples.

Historical summary.

Forms of Administration.

Character of Land Tenures and System of Surveys and Settlement.

Civil Divisions of British Territory.

Details of the last census.

See —

General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 1 – 141.

Changes in Administration.

1. On the expiry of the tenure of office of Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu succeeded him as Member of the Bengal Executive Council on the 17th April 1924. On the resignation of the Hon'ble Mr. Basu on the 31st July 1924 the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur of Nadia succeeded him. The Hon'ble Mr. T. Emerson, C.I.E., I.C.S., acted as a temporary Member of the Bengal Executive Council from the 4th May to 30th October 1924, during the absence on leave of Sir Hugh Stephenson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S. On the 14th March 1925 His Excellency the Governor appointed Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., and Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Chaudhuri of Santosh to be Ministers for the administration of transferred subjects; but in consequence of the refusal of the Council to vote their salaries both the Ministers resigned their office shortly after, and on the 25th March 1925 the administration of the transferred subjects was taken over by His Excellency the Governor under the Transferred Subjects (Temporary Administration) Rules. Subsequently the Government of India, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, suspended the transfer of all the transferred subjects in the province of Bengal from the 13th June 1925 to the 21st January 1927.

Relations with the Tributary States and Frontier affairs.

(a) COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1924-25.]

(Area—1,307 square miles ; population —592,489 ; chief products—rice, jute and tobacco ; military force—297 and 4 guns ; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.)

2. The constitution of the Regency Council remained unaltered during the year.

State Railway.

3. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 4,29,833 and the net earnings to Rs. 2,31,919. The percentage of working expenses over gross earnings was 46·05 against 46·22 of the previous year.

Finance.

4. The revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 39,07,065 against Rs. 36,31,676 of the previous year while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 37,31,471 against Rs. 34,23,366 of the previous year. A sum of Rs. 10,24,981 was expended in repayment of debts.

Crops and condition of the people.

5. The total rainfall during the year was 162·13 inches against 120·21 inches of the previous year. The jute crop, though adversely affected by excessive rainfall, yielded an outturn of 75 per cent. of the normal and the prices ranged between Rs. 9 and Rs. 14 per maund. The cultivation of *haimanti* and *bitri* paddy was not satisfactory on account of heavy rains and the price of common rice ranged between Rs. 6 and Rs. 9 per maund. The high price of jute was a boon to the cultivators ; but the middle classes and labourers suffered on account of the high cost of food. The tobacco crop was 75 per cent. of the normal and the price varied from Rs. 13 to Rs. 20 per maund. The *rabi* crops yielded only a small harvest.

Education.

6. The number of subdivisional higher English Schools was 4 as in the previous year. The number of primary schools was 290 against 280 of the previous year. The Victoria College continued to make satisfactory progress.

Public Health.

7. The health of the people on the whole was good in spite of outbreaks of cholera and small-pox in different parts of the State.

(b) TRIPURA.

[Annual Administration Report of the Tripura State for the year 1924-25.]

(Area—4,116 square miles ; population—3,04,437 ; revenue from the State—Rs. 13,83,021 ; revenue from the zamindaries—Rs. 11,33,017 ; chief products—rice and cotton ; military strength—198 including officers ; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Manikya Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur, Maharaja of Tripura, aged 17 years ; family—Indo-Chinese , caste—Kshatriya ; residence—Agartala.)

8. The administrative training of the young Maharaja commenced during the year under the supervision of his guardian tutor, Lieutenant Colonel O. C. Pulley, and with the active co-operation of the Political Agent of the State.

9. Mr. A. J. Dash, I.C.S., continued to be the Political Agent of the State. Political Agent.

10. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 15,42,710 against Rs. 15,82,035 of the previous year and Rs. 13,83,022, the average of the preceding five years. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaries, including deposits and loans, amounted to Rs. 29,65,939 against Rs. 29,75,562 of the previous year and, with the opening balance of Rs. 13,06,268, the total sum available for expenditure was Rs. 42,72,207 against Rs. 43,66,613 of the preceding year. Revenue and Finance.

11. The number of cases reported to the police was 1,130 against 1,222 in the year before. The number of persons arrested was 743 of whom 730 persons were sent up for trial and 113 were convicted. The percentage of stolen property recovered was 31·57 against 22·4 of the previous year. Protection.

12. The average rainfall of the year was 106·28 inches against 81·58 inches in the previous year and the quinquennial average of 87·5 inches. Normal crops of til, mustard, jute and sugarcane were harvested ; but the cotton and early paddy crops were not good. Weather and Crops.

13. There were few deaths from small-pox during the year, but cholera prevailed in many parts of the State. Kala-azar and malaria were prevalent in virulent form only in Agartala and its vicinity. Public Health.

14. The number of children attending schools in the State was 5,559 against 5,972 of the previous year. The Woodburn Artisan School had 18 boys on the rolls against 25 in the previous year. General.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1924-25.]

15. The material condition of the agricultural population was on the whole not unsatisfactory during the year under report. The labouring classes continued to reap the benefit of the high rates of wages prevailing for skilled, unskilled and agricultural labour; but, as in previous years, middle class people with fixed incomes suffered on account of the high prices of the necessities of life.

The year was free from any widespread natural calamity; but general weather conditions were not favourable to agriculture. Both prior to the advent of the monsoon and during the monsoon season there was an unequal distribution of rain which led to a decrease in the outturn of rice and jute in the low-lying tracts of the Dacca district and in the districts of Chittagong and Tippera. The outturn of rice fell below normal also in the district of Birbhum and in several districts of the Presidency Division. Owing to the partial failure of the autumn rice crop, the price of rice in several of the districts in Eastern Bengal rose to almost famine rates, and, in spite of the measures taken locally, continued to rule high throughout the year. The price of jute also reached an exceptionally high level. In the rest of the province the outturn of crops was satisfactory and the material condition of the people showed signs of improvement.

In the coal industry there was a period of depression as a result of which many collieries were on the verge of collapse. The jute and cotton mills in the districts of Howrah and 24-Parganas continued to prosper. The tea industry in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Chittagong maintained last year's prosperity. The weaving industry did fairly well: the interest previously taken in weaving and spinning by non-weaving classes as a result of the non-co-operation movement has subsided and amateurs have now practically abandoned the use of the *charka*.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1924-25.]

16. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 99,893 against 99,696 in the previous year. Of these, 93,083 were permanently-settled estates, 4,151 temporarily-settled estates and 2,659 estates under direct management of Government. The current demand of the year amounted to Rs. 2,88,73,785 against Rs. 2,87,42,055 of the previous year. The increase of Rs. 1,31,730 was due to the resumption by escheat of two permanently-settled estates, to settlement of newly accreted land, to re-settlement of temporarily-settled estates on the termination of the existing leases and also to progressive increase of demand in Government estates in the Sundarbans. The total realisable demand, including arrears amounting to Rs. 17,66,063, was Rs. 3,06,39,848 of which Rs. 2,89,63,157, or 94·5 per cent. of the total, was collected. The collection represented 100·3 per cent. of the current demand against 99·8 per cent. in the previous year. The total remissions amounted to Rs. 97,279 against Rs. 1,27,827 in the preceding year.

Total collections.

17. The total collections amounted to Rs. 5,75,065 against Rs. 5,21,857 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 53,208 was chiefly due to the increase in the receipts from fees under Act XI of 1859 and in other receipts including *salami* levied in Government estates.

**Miscellaneous
land revenue.**

18. The total number of petty estates and holdings, the land revenue of which was redeemed during the year, was 282 against 260 in the preceding year. These were, with the exception of three in Hooghly and four in Chittagong, permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and its suburbs. The total amount of land revenue redeemed was Rs. 565 and the price realised Rs. 16,935. The total revenue redeemed up to date amounts to Rs. 35,169 for which Rs. 8,71,787 has been realised as redemption money.

**Redemption of
land revenue.**

19. The number of defaults and of sale during the year was 12,181 and 1,163 respectively, against 12,016 and 1,171 in the preceding year. The number of exemptions from sale under section 18, including those for petty arrears, etc., was 10,010 or 82·1 per cent. of the defaults. The price realised by sale was 4·9 times the Government revenue.

**Coercive
measures—
(a) Sale Law.**

(b) Certificates

20. The total number of certificates, exclusive of those for cesses, rose from 82,719 in 1923-24 to 83,451. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 72·6 against 70·5 in the previous year, the number of cases pending at the close of the year being 31,271 against 31,078 at the end of 1923-24. In the majority of cases payments were made on the issue of notices or on attachment of property and actual sale was necessary in only 3,449 cases or 4·1 per cent. of the total number of cases (83,064) disposed of during the year.

Other Revenue Work.

**Land Registra-
tion.**

21. The total number of proprietary interests entered in the land registration registers of the Presidency was 1,010,314 at the beginning of the year against 1,016,649 at its close. For want of funds the work of re-writing land registration registers on the basis of the record-of-rights could not be taken up in any district during the year.

Partitions.

22. There were 218 cases pending at the close of the preceding year and 48 cases were instituted during the year under report. Out of the total of 266 cases, 51 cases were disposed of. Special officers were employed exclusively on partition work in Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Dinajpur. The incidence of cost per acre of the area partitioned during the year was 10 annas 9 pies in Dacca and 7 annas 11 pies in Mymensingh.

Land Acquisition.

23. During the year proceedings for the acquisition, on behalf of Government, local authorities and companies, of land covering an area of 656·0369 acres were confirmed at a total cost of Rs. 56,51,470. Of the total expenditure, a sum of Rs. 9,05,821 was paid for the acquisition of land required for Government purposes, including State Railways and Companies' Railways provided with land free of cost under the terms of their agreements, and Rs. 47,45,640 for all other purposes, *viz.*, for District Boards, Municipalities, Calcutta Improvement Trust, Calcutta Port Commissioners, Railways and other companies.

**Loans—
(a) Land
Improvement
Loans Act.**

24. The value of loans outstanding at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,25,977, and loans amounting to Rs. 8,550 were advanced during the year. The total outstanding principal was Rs. 1,34,527, of which Rs. 27,036 was repayable during the year. Of this Rs. 804 was held under suspension and Rs. 26,356 realised, including Rs. 535 collected in advance, while Rs. 138 was remitted. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 1,08,033, of which Rs. 2,095 was overdue. An amount of Rs. 6,728 was due on account of interest, current and arrear. The collection during

the year amounted to Rs. 6,460 including Rs. 344 collected in advance, giving a balance of Rs. 612 which was unrealised at the close of the year.

25. The amount advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was Rs. 1,41,971. The largest sums were issued in the districts of Bakarganj (Rs. 45,000) and Bogra (Rs. 32,357). The outstanding balance from the previous year was Rs. 8,36,724 making the aggregate amount outstanding Rs. 9,78,695, of which Rs. 7,79,134 was recoverable during the year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 6,31,815 including Rs. 2,024 paid in advance. Rupees 4,605 was remitted. The balance still recoverable amounts to Rs. 3,42,277 (including Rs. 916 held under suspension), of which Rs. 1,43,408 was overdue. The large arrears in Dacca and Bogra were due mainly to the straitened circumstances of the people, and those in Murshidabad, Chittagong and Pabna to deficient outturn of crops. Rupees 95,882 was due on account of interest, current and arrear; Rs. 69,881 was collected including Rs. 88 realised in advance and Rs. 50 as penal interest in the previous year; Rs. 1,236 was remitted, and Rs. 66 suspended, leaving a balance of Rs. 24,787. (b) **Agriculturists' Loans Act.**

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September, 1924.]

26. The main traverse programme consisted of 1,542 square miles in the districts of the 24 Parganas and Murshidabad, and was practically completed. Some miscellaneous surveys were also carried out during the year. **Outturn of the year.**

Land Records and Settlement.

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September, 1924.]

27. Cadastral survey and settlement operations were conducted in 15 districts—1,360.70 square miles were cadastrally surveyed, and final publication was completed in 1,916 square miles. The total area of which a record-of-rights has now been completed in the Presidency is 42,429 square miles. **General.**

28. Major settlement operations were in progress in eight districts, namely, Bankura, Jessore, Nadia, Pabna-Bogra, Khulna and Murshidabad-Birbhum. **Major settlement.**

29. In Bankura the main work was recovery, case-work and diara resumption. The recovery programme in the financial year **Bankura.**

1923-24 provided for Rs. 18,60,000 but the amount actually realised was Rs. 19,21,954 leaving Rs. 5,881 still outstanding. The total number of cases filed was 37,781 of which 1,829 were pending at the close of the year. The re-settlement of all Government and temporarily-settled estates has been completed and diara resumption was effected on the Bodai and Darakeswar rivers.

Jessore.

30. The settlement in Jessore was in its closing stages, and work was confined to maps, printing, recovery, case-work, revision of land revenue and diara resumption, all of which was practically finished, save that in recovery Rs. 80,454 remained outstanding and in case-work 1,494 cases were pending at the end of the year.

Nadia.

31. In Nadia diara resumption was complicated by the existence of maps of surveys older than the Revenue Survey. The question, however, was definitely settled and resumption was effected on the basis of the Revenue Survey maps. The programme of recovery was delayed in consequence of the delay in diara resumption; and the balance outstanding for recovery at the close of the year was Rs. 1,38,613. The total number of cases filed was 34,937 of which 25,537 were disposed of.

Pabna-Bogra.

32. This was the fourth season of the settlement operations in Pabna-Bogra. The final janch of 247 square miles and final publication and recovery in one of the blocks were completed.

Khulna.

33. In Khulna the total area under cadastral survey consisted of Bagerhat subdivision and a block in Satkhira subdivision aggregating 2,417 square miles. Attestation of 797 square miles in the sadar subdivision, and objections and final janch of one block were completed.

**Murshidabad.
Birbhum.**

34. This was the first year of regular district operations and the area consisted of 621 square miles in Birbhum and 336 square miles in Murshidabad. In Birbhum where kistwar and khanapuri had been done in 1921, operations this year began at the stage of bujharat. In Murshidabad progress was rapid and the programme for field operations was duly accomplished.

Minor operations.

35. Minor operations were conducted in the districts of Faridpur, Tippera, Rajshahi, Malda, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts. The work was in its closing stages in all except Chittagong where the programme up to attestation was duly completed within the year

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1924-25.]

Waste lands.

36. Special rules regarding waste lands exist for Chittagong, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and the Sundarbans. In Chittagong and

Darjeeling no lease of waste lands was granted during the year while in Jalpaiguri the area leased was 1,986 acres with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 2,584, bringing the total area leased to 1,08,052 acres with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 76,399. In Noakhali the reclamation of jungle areas in Burirchar continued and an area of 5,428 acres was settled with tenants on progressive rent. There was also considerable progress in colonization during the year in Char Lakhidia in Hatiya Circle, resulting in a satisfactory increase in the annual revenue. The colonization of waste lands in the Bakarganj Sundarbans is proceeding satisfactorily. The Khaprabhanga Protected Forest, which is the next area due for reclamation, brought in an income of Rs. 23,000 from forest produce, while grazing fees collected in other un-reclaimed waste land amounted to Rs. 5,226.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1924-25.]

37. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals but managed by Government, was 2,658 with an aggregate annual demand of Rs. 51,26,429 (excluding that of the Orphanganj Market and the Hastings estate in the 24-Parganas). The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 9.49 against 9.59 in the previous year. The scheme for the substitution of Settlement Kanungoes for Sub-Deputy Collectors in certain Khas Mahal Circles was introduced as an experimental measure during the year in some districts in Eastern Bengal and worked satisfactorily. In Noakhali the opening of a new sub-tahsil office in the lately colonized area of Burirchar was sanctioned during the year.

**Number and
management.**

38. A sum of Rs. 1,86,178 was spent on miscellaneous improvements, including agricultural improvements and experiments, and Rs. 24,862 on sanitary improvements, tanks, wells, roads, bridges, drainage, irrigation, embankments, repairs of buildings and maintenance of boundary pillars. A total sum of Rs. 19,799 was spent for the improvement of hâts and markets in Government estates in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Bakarganj and Bogra.

**Grants for im-
provements.**

39. This was the eighteenth year of the colonization scheme in the Bakarganj Sundarbans. No new colonists were settled during the year. Formerly lands used to be allotted to tenants in the third year after the opening of the estate to woodcutters for the clearance of timber, but it is now considered undesirable to settle tenants until the necessary agricultural and sanitary improvements have been completed. An area of 6,028 acres of land was surveyed. The total expenditure on the colonization scheme during the year

**Colonization of
the Sundarbans—
Bakarganj.**

was Rs. 85,784, of which Rs. 36,710 was spent on works of agricultural improvement. The failure of crops in the preceding year made it necessary to advance a sum of Rs. 35,000 as agricultural loans, and Rs. 30,567 was realised with interest. There are now in existence 128 co-operative credit societies under the Khepupara Central Bank against 119 in 1923-24. The Sundarbans Sale and Supply Society continued its useful work and earned a substantial profit. A number of new schools were started, and eighteen arbitration boards in connection with the rural societies were established. An annual grant of Rs. 2,004 has been sanctioned for free primary education in the Sundarbans. Cattle disease was rare, but the health of the settlers was not very satisfactory.

The Raiyatwari demand amounted to Rs. 1,23,240. The amount realised as royalty on forest produce was Rs. 27,234 against Rs. 30,904 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on improvements since the inception of the scheme amounts to Rs. 7,97,438.

**Colonization of
the Sundarbans—
24 Parganas.**

40. This was the tenth year of the colonization scheme in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans. A sum of Rs. 44,179 was allotted for colonization work, of which Rs. 5,931 was spent on reclamation in several blocks and the construction of an internal embankment in each of the northern and southern blocks of Ramkarer Char East, Rs. 2,031 on the construction of a drainage channel and an embankment in Saugor Island, Rs. 3,211 on repairs to the existing embankments in the Sundarbans estate and to the bungalow at Monshadwip, Rs. 2,261 on the construction of a tahsil office at Saugor Island and Rs. 8,820 on the establishment for colonization and collection.

Roads.

41. During the year under report Rs. 2,89,415 was spent on roads and communications in, or leading to, Government estates. Of this Rs. 81,850, representing $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of collections from Government estates, was supplied by Government and the balance was met from District Board and other local funds.

Education.

42. There were 3,458 schools in Government estates during the year under review attended by 105,705 pupils against 3,169 and 92,373, respectively, in the preceding year. The increase both in the number of schools and pupils was shared by most of the districts in the Presidency except Nadia, Murshidabad, Khulna and Pabna.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards and Attached Estates for the year
1924-25.]

**Number of
estates.**

43. The total number of estates that remained under the management of the Court of Wards at the beginning of the year under

report was 72. Six new estates were taken charge of during the year and 5 estates were released. The number of estates in charge of the Court thus stood at 73 at the close of the year.

44. The total demand of rent and cesses due to the estates under management during the year, including an arrear of Rs. 62,51,524, aggregated Rs. 1,10,01,705, of which a sum of Rs. 53,82,298 or 48·9 per cent. was collected against 47·3 per cent. in the preceding year. The percentage of total collections on the current demand also increased from 108·6 in the previous year to 113·3 in the year under report. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was reached or exceeded in 49 estates out of the 69.

Collection of
rent and cesses.

45. The total balance of rent and cesses due to all estates that remained outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 53,11,381, representing about 106 per cent. of the current and 48·27 per cent. of the total demand of the year, against the corresponding figures of 102·3 and 45 of the preceding year.

Balance of rent
and cesses due to
estates.

46. The total amount of ascertained debts that remained outstanding from the estates in the Presidency at the close of the year under report stood at Rs. 33,98,389, against the corresponding figure of Rs. 30,00,468 in the preceding year. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced during the year aggregated Rs. 4,35,662 and the total amount of interest paid was Rs. 3,25,614.

Debts of estates.

47. The percentage of the cost of management on the current rent and cess demand of estates for the whole Presidency showed a decrease, being 13·6 against 14·4 in the preceding year.

Management
charges.

48. In solvent estates the standard fixed for minimum expenditure on education and on works of agricultural and sanitary improvement are 1 and 3 per cent., respectively, on the current rent and cess demands. No standard has been fixed for expenditure on works of miscellaneous improvement. The total amount spent during the year under these heads by the estates in the whole Presidency aggregated Rs. 2,68,410 against Rs. 3,29,175 in the preceding year.

Improvements.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1924-25.]

49. The Bengal Tenancy Act is in force throughout the Presidency except the District of Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta. In the Duars portion of Jalpaiguri the Act is in operation partially.

Bengal Tenancy
Act.

The Bill for the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act, drawn up by the Committee appointed for the purpose, has been revised in the light of the opinions received, and the new Bill will be introduced in the Legislative Council soon. Section 20 of the Act has been amended during the year by the passing of the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1925, with a view to conferring the status of settled raiyats on raiyats who have cultivated land for 12 years or more in areas in which villages were constituted less than 12 years ago.

The provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act, 1918, by which restrictions may be imposed on the transfer of lands by certain aboriginal peoples have proved successful and have now been extended to the Bhumijis of Bankura, to the Koras, Bhumijis and Mundas of Midnapore, to the Sonthals of Rajshahi, to the Mundas, Oraons and Sonthals of Rangpur, Dinajpur and Malda, and to the Mughls residing in certain thanas in Bakarganj.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES.

See—General Administration Report for 1921-22, part II, pages 154-159.

Course of legislation.

50. One Act was made by the Governor of Bengal under the provisions of section 72 E of the Government of India Act, and two Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council. Acts passed.

(1) *The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925*, was made by the Governor of Bengal under the provisions of section 72 E of the Government of India Act and received the assent of His Majesty, signified by an order of His Majesty in Council, which assent was notified by the Governor-General in the *Gazette of India*, dated the 21st March, 1925.

The Act had for its object the continuance by an enactment of the local legislature of the provisions of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1924 (I of 1924), since that Ordinance was limited under section 72 of the Government of India Act to expire at the end of six months from the date of its promulgation.

(2) *Bengal Act I of 1925 [The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1925]*.—The main object of this Act was to confer the status of a settled raiyat on certain tenants who had held lands for more than twelve years in an area of the Khulna district, in the Sundarbans, wherein no villages had been constituted within the meaning of clause 10 of section 3 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, for the purpose of allowing them to be recorded in the record of rights as being possessed of occupancy rights.

(3) *Bengal Act II of 1925 [The President's Salary Act, 1925]*.—The object of this Act was to determine the salary of the elected President of the Bengal Legislative Council in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (5) of section 72 C of the Government of India Act.

51. *The Howrah Bridge Bill, 1924*, to provide for the construction, maintenance and control of a new bridge across the river Hooghly between Calcutta and Howrah, was introduced at a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, held on the 27th August, 1924, and at the same meeting a motion that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion was carried in Council by way of amendment to the motion of the member-in-charge to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

Government Bill
pending.

Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency.

Recruitment.

52. The total sanctioned strength of the subordinate ranks remained practically unchanged at 24,039, while the number of officers and men actually employed against this sanction had risen by the end of the year to 23,647. The number of constables recruited was 2,461 of whom 726 were found locally.

Discipline.

53. The dominant features were a further heavy increase in the number of departmental punishments which rose in two years from 8,855 to 12,145, accompanied by a decrease in the number of criminal cases brought against the police. The number of convictions was 36, the lowest on record, and amounted to less than 10 per cent. of the cases filed and pending during the year. These figures were evidence that the efforts made in the last two years to tighten up discipline in the force were having a beneficial result on the relations between the force and the public.

Administrative changes.

54. Several administrative changes of importance were made during the year, some in further pursuance of the policy of retrenchment and others due to the discovery that retrenchment had gone too far. It was found necessary, for instance, to re-open the classes for Sub-Inspectors at the Police Training College, Sardah. Similarly the appointments of Additional Superintendents of Police at Tippera and Faridpur, which had been held in abeyance, had to be revived, and a temporary Additional Superintendent was also posted to Mymensingh. On the other hand, progress was made with a retrenchment measure which had necessarily taken time to work out, namely, the revision of thana jurisdictions with a view to abolishing thanas of smaller size. Seven thanas were actually abolished during the year and twenty-eight in all are to be eliminated. This measure has, however, proved very unpopular in the localities affected. The system of pooling launches as a means to retrenchment reached its logical conclusion in the decision to transfer to the Marine Department all launches, other than those of the River Police, and also the River Police Dockyard at Nabiganj.

A long overdue improvement in Railway Police administration was effected by making the jurisdiction of the Railway Police in Assam and Bengal coincide with the provincial boundaries. This change necessitated opening a new Railway Police subdivision under an Assistant Superintendent at Chittagong.

Crime statistics.

55. The statistics for all offences against person, property, and public tranquility showed an increase of 1,886 over that of the previous year. Notwithstanding this slight rise in the returns as a whole, there were clear signs of an improvement in serious crime. The total number of cases of theft and burglary decreased

respectively by 1,998 and 695 giving a decrease of 4 per cent. in both these categories. Burglaries show a decrease of over 11,000 since 1919, while the steady diminution in the number of riots, which has been manifest since the troubled period of 1921-22, was continued throughout the year. The crime of dacoity was, however, still far from being reduced to the level prevailing in years before the war, and there was in fact a slight increase in the number of cases.

56. One of the most welcome features of the year was the rapid spread of the village defence party movement. In the district of 24-Parganas alone the number of such parties increased from 29 to 134. Valuable work was done by several of these parties in resisting or following up gangs of dacoits. On more than one occasion a free fight with the criminals ended in the death, or capture, of members of the gang. Along with the constitution of such recognised parties there were signs of a new spirit of independence and self-protection on the part of the villagers, and many instances were reported where villagers rallied to the house of a neighbour who had been attacked by dacoits. All possible measures to foster the village defence party movement were adopted and numerous leaflets explaining its advantages and giving instances of its success were circulated.

Village defence parties.

57. The Criminal Investigation Department with its strength reduced by retrenchment had heavy work to cope with in both its branches. Revolutionary crime occurred in the districts no less than in Calcutta and unfortunately with greater impunity. The Chittagong district gained an unenviable notoriety by the murder of a Sub-Inspector in May and a revolutionary dacoity in September, following on the dacoity with arms in the same district in the previous year. The dacoity in September did not come before the Courts and the other two cases ended in acquittal. The difficult task of carrying out initial action under the Ordinance simultaneously and with secrecy in all districts on the 25th October was successfully accomplished. From this point the outbreak of revolutionary crime diminished. Another important incident in which the police were faced with political animus and revolutionary activity was the Satyagraha movement at Tarakeswar. A formidable wave of dacoity in the Gaibandha subdivision was checked by intensive methods, and enquiries were made into a series of frauds on the telegraph money-order system.

Criminal Investigation Department.

58. The River Police continued its activities on a restricted scale; and the prevalence of river dacoities in the Khulna district indicated that the retrenchment of this force had gone far enough. Statistics of railway crime showed no marked variation, but a decrease was reported on the East Indian Railway. A

Special Police Forces.

disquieting incident, the investigation of which reached no final result, was the attempt to derail the Darjeeling mail in November.

Chaukidari.

59. As was to be expected, difficulties were sometimes experienced in the adjustment of functions between the Police and Presidents of Union Boards. The latter, for instance, regarding the chaukidar as primarily a village servant, were apt to view with disfavour his employment on police patrols, while the thana officer could not dispense with his assistance on this essential function. It is hoped, however, that before long a better mutual understanding will be established between thana officers and Presidents. The statistics of the number and cost of chaukidars indicated a slight tendency towards increase of pay and reduction in numbers. The average cost per head of the chaukidari force numbering 81,220 in the year under review, amounted to Rs. 70.44 as against Rs. 69.95 in the previous year. It was an unsatisfactory feature to find an unexpended balance of nearly one lakh of rupees in the reward fund at the end of the year.

**Finance and
Police.**

60. The expenditure for the year 1924-25 was no less than ten lakhs of rupees below the budget provision for the previous year. That provision itself was fixed at a time when retrenchment was in the air; and on this basis the Police could fairly claim a contribution approaching ten lakhs to the efforts for retrenchment in provincial expenditure as a whole. Unfortunately, just at the moment when retrenchment measures began to show their results, their effect was to some extent obscured by the new demands made on the resources of the Police by the political situation.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

Case statistics.

61. In the number of true cognisable cases reported during the year there was a slight increase which, for the most part, was attributable to minor offences under the Police Act, and Motor Vehicles and Hackney Carriages Act. On the other hand, improvement was shown in the figures for serious crime, the statistics of which are characterised throughout by a decrease in the number of true cases together with an increase in the percentage of convictions. The number of true cases of robbery reported to the Police fell from 86 in 1923 to 53 in 1924; the number of burglaries decreased from 1,564 to 1,206 and of thefts from 5,207 to 4,777.

Goonda Act.

62. The Goonda Act came into force on 28th February, 1923, and since that date 56 goondas have been removed from the city

of Calcutta, of whom 21 were expelled in the year under report. The Act has gone far to secure for the inhabitants of Calcutta the relief from the goonda class which it was designed to afford.

63. The record of revolutionary crime, the recrudescence of which was a feature of the previous year, continued with increasing gravity for the greater part of the year under review. A European gentleman was assassinated in mistake for the Commissioner of Police; a bomb manufactory was raided and live bombs were found; on two occasions Bengali youths were found in possession of revolvers and ammunition, the weapon in one case being fully loaded; and finally a bomb was thrown in Mirzapur Street resulting in the death of a shop-holder, while the trial of those arrested for this offence was followed by a murder on the Railway line. The culprits in the first four of these cases were convicted, and the sinister record of the year was cut short by action taken on the 25th October under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance (I of 1924).

**Revolutionary
Crime.**

64. The absence of communal feeling which characterised the previous year no longer prevailed. Very serious rioting by Muhammadaus against Sikhs occurred in June as the outcome of a rumour that the latter were kidnapping boys for sacrifice. The rumour, which is only too familiar an incident of industrial undertakings in this country, arose on this occasion out of work on the new docks, and was totally baseless; but the affair resulted in the death of eight Sikhs, the destruction of several of their taxi cabs and many injuries during the riots. Feeling between Hindus and Moslems was reported to be strained on occasions, but no outbreaks occurred.

**Communal fri-
tion.**

65. There is no particular development to record in regard to traffic control. The number of motor vehicles reported to be in use in Calcutta continued to increase by over 1,000 per annum, but, especially in the case of private cars, there is reason to doubt whether the increase in numbers on the roads entailed a corresponding increase of vehicles on the streets. Features which are significant of changing habits in Calcutta were signs of expansion in the registration of motor buses, a decline in the number of first class hackney-carriages, and a corresponding increase in the popularity of the rickshaw. The total number of persons injured and killed in accidents to motor-vehicles, namely, 846 and 71, respectively, showed practically no change from the preceding year. The traffic problem in Calcutta as a whole is a big one and for financial reasons it was not found possible even to allow the Commissioner of Police the extra force required for traffic control in the south of the town.

Traffic control.

Police housing.

66. A beginning was made, if still on a somewhat restricted scale, with the project for housing the Calcutta Police in Government buildings instead of in rented premises. Three buildings were under construction which would provide quarters and station offices for the force of two police-stations and one outpost.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for the destruction of wild animals and snakes during 1924. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Wild animals.

67. The number of persons killed by wild animals fell from 239 to 224 in 1924.

Tigers were responsible for 34 deaths against 45 in 1923.

Snakes.

68. The number of persons who died from snake-bite rose from 4,088 in 1923 to 4,313 in 1924. The increase occurred in the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions.

**Destruction of
wild animals.**

69. The number of wild animals killed was 1,506. Rewards paid for the destruction of wild animals and snakes totalled Rs. 3,259-5 and Rs. 151-11, respectively.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1924.]

Judicial staff.

70. For sessions work the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 10 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge were employed in five districts and decided 143 cases. There were also eight temporary Additional Sessions Judges employed for varying periods in different districts on sessions work.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 394 stipendiary and 676 honorary magistrates. One special magistrate was employed at Noakhali during the year, and decided 106 cases. Of the 394 stipendiary magistrates, 267 exercised first, 99 second and 28 third class powers.

There were 129 benches of magistrates constituted from among 602 honorary magistrates in the mufassal.

Offences reported.

71. The number of offences reported during the year combined with the number pending from the previous year was 376,060 against 360,411 in 1923.

Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 303,084 were found to be true, and of these, 248,120 were brought to trial.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

72. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 105,918 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 142,202 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal. Total cases for trial.

The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the municipal magistrates, was 7,583 more than in 1923. There was a rise in the number of cases under special and local laws and also under the Penal Code. Under the latter head the most noticeable features were the increase in offences affecting the public health and the decrease in cases of criminal trespass.

The percentage of convictions before stipendiary magistrates amounted to 84·4 and before honorary magistrates sitting singly and benches 88·9 and 89·7, respectively. The percentage of convictions before municipal magistrates was 91·3.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

73. Including cases committed to the sessions 142,436 cases were disposed of during the year. Cases disposed of.

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

District magistrates	..	..	..	..	97
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates	..	..	..	..	117,837
Honorary magistrates	..	..	..	..	9,965
Benches of magistrates	..	..	..	..	14,397
Special magistrates	..	..	..	..	106

In addition to the cases shown above, district and subdivisional magistrates decided 34 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The total number of cases disposed of by the District Magistrates was 131, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Bakarganj (69).

74. In the cases finally disposed of by magistrates, 207,289 persons were accused. Of the total, 94,694 or 45·7 per cent. were convicted and 112,595 or 54·3 per cent. were acquitted or discharged. Results of trials.

75. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:— Punishments.

Imprisonment	..	..	..	..	18,175
Fine or forfeiture	..	..	..	..	72,198
Whipping	..	..	..	..	202

In addition to these sentences 5,118 persons were required to give security.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 7,57,415. Rupees 6,06,142 was realised of which Rs. 1,05,356 was paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous
proceedings
under the Code
of Criminal Pro-
cedure.
Witnesses.

76. The total number of miscellaneous cases decided during the year was 8,645, against 8,501 in the previous year.

77. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 365,700 as compared with 331,852 in 1923. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 158,337 or 30.2 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 2,25,243 in 1923 to Rs. 2,85,607 in 1924.

III.—Courts of Session.

Cases disposed
of.

78. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of session was 1,345.

Results of trials.

79. There were 4,518 persons, or 670 more than in 1923, under trial before the courts of session. Of the 3,671 persons tried, 1,942 or 52.9 per cent. were convicted and 1,539 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 190 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

80. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session :—

Death	..	..	..	..	..	16
Transportation or penal servitude	..	..	..	..	..	90
Imprisonment	..	..	..	..	..	1,811
Fine or forfeiture	..	..	..	..	..	58
Whipping	..	..	..	..	..	17

In addition to these sentences 177 persons were required to give security.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 9,867. Rupees 3,112 was realised, of which Rs. 472 was paid as compensation.

Witnesses.

81. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 29,496. Of these, 19,274 were examined and 10,222 discharged without examination.

The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 1,17,741 as compared with Rs. 99,450 in 1923.

82. The number of cases disposed of was 41, against 80 in the previous year.

Altogether 67 persons were tried, of whom 26 were convicted and 41 acquitted.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

83. At the opening of the year, 80 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 683 appeals were preferred and 662 were decided leaving 101 pending at its close.

Two appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

84. Five hundred and ten appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 416, modified in 41 and reversed in 28 instances. Twenty-five cases were remanded for trial.

Results of ap-
peals.

One hundred and forty-eight appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided the orders being affirmed in 129, modified in 6 and reversed in 9 cases. Four cases were remanded for trial.

Of the four appeals preferred by the Local Government and decided during the year two were confirmed and two reversed.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

85. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session was 4,084, against 3,323 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 7,563 persons were concerned.

Sessions court.

The appeals of 1,980 persons, or 26·2 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 2,264 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,060 obtained an alteration of sentence; and 1,655 were acquitted. The cases of 604 appellants were otherwise disposed of.

In the case of admitted appeals, the results were more favourable to appellants than in the previous year.

86. In the courts of magistrates 2,845 appeals were decided against 3,249 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 4,721 persons were concerned. Of these, the appeals of 566 were rejected, and the sentences on 1,813, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 2,379 wholly unsuccessful appellants or 50·4 per cent. Of the remainder, 538 appellants, or

Magistrates'
courts.

11·4 per cent., obtained an alteration of the sentences passed on them, 1,551, or 32·8 per cent., their total annulment, and the cases of 253 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1923, the results were more favourable to appellants.

General.

General.

87. Compared with the figures of 1923, there was an increase in the number of criminal cases disposed of by magistrates both in the mufassal and in the Presidency town. The amount of appellate and revisional work disposed of by District Magistrates, however, was less than in 1923. In the courts of session there was a general increase in the outturn of criminal work. In the High Court there was a decrease in original and appellate work but an increase in revisional work disposed of.

Two persons in the Presidency town were under trial for offences against the State. Both of them were convicted.

Receipts and charges.

88. After debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers, calculated according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 37,27,899. Of this amount Rs. 19,31,941 was for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,75,977 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,81,669 for process-servers, Rs. 7,51,994 for other establishments and Rs. 6,86,318 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 19,73,966. Of this amount Rs. 8,26,505 was under fines, Rs. 1,67,469 under process-fees, Rs. 2,43,413 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 6,41,916 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above, and Rs. 94,663 was miscellaneous receipts. Compared with the figures of 1923, the receipts show an increase of over Rs. 47,000 and the charges an increase of over Rs. 74,000.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1924.]

Judicial staff.

89. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1924 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 10 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 44 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In

addition four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge and two the powers of a Munsif. :

There were also 8 temporary District Judges, 6 temporary Subordinate Judges and 9 temporary Munsifs employed for varying periods in different districts.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

90. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1924 was 7,665 against 8,761 in the previous year. **Original suits for disposal.**

Of 3,159 suits instituted during 1924, 2,219 were for money or moveable property, 273 were mortgage suits and 262 were for immoveable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 8,08,74,100 as compared with Rs. 7,59,25,142 in the previous year.

91. The number of suits decided in 1924 was 3,838. The number undisposed of at the end of the year was 3,827. The number pending at the close of the year was less than the number pending at the close of the previous year by 664. There were 1,899 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 39 on the figures of the previous year. **Original suits disposed of.**

92. During the year, 458 petitions for probates and letters of administration, and 17,050 interlocutory applications were disposed of. Of the interlocutory applications, 10,255 were disposed of by the Court or by a Judge in chambers and the remainder, 6,795, by the Registrar and the Master. **Probates and letters of Administration, etc.**

93. The number of awards filed and that of applications made in execution thereof were 193 and 102, respectively. **Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act, 1899.**

94. The number of appeals pending from the previous year was 132 and 199 new appeals were preferred to the Appellate Side of the Court. Of the total number, 62 were dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted, and 119 were decided on merit. Of the latter, the decrees of the Courts of first instance were affirmed in 72, modified in 13 and reversed in 31 cases; three cases were remanded for retrial. One hundred and fifty appeals remained undecided at the close of the year. **Appeals from the original jurisdiction.**

95. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 1,443, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 239. Of the 1,845 cases for disposal, 99 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the **Insolvency cases.**

petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 61 and the insolvents obtaining relief in 38 cases. Two thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven applications of a miscellaneous character were also disposed of during the year.

**Appeals to the
Privy Council.**

96. Seven appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and three appeals were admitted during the year. Of these, four were disposed of by the Privy Council and six remained pending at the close of the year.

Financial results.

97. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including under the head of expenditure the salaries of the Judges:—

Year.			Receipts. (a)	Receipts. (b)	Expenditure.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1922	..	..	17,97,855	7,04,634	6,83,835
1923	..	..	24,53,475	10,86,816	7,33,797
1924	..	..	22,27,246	9,58,407	7,60,892

(a) Including the duty raised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.

(b) Excluding the duty raised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.

11.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

**Administrative
change.**

98. The Court of the Small Cause Court Judge of Howrah, Hooghly and Serampore having been abolished, a Subordinate Judge vested with the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge up to Rs. 500 was posted to Howrah instead.

**Original suits
instituted.**

99. The number of suits instituted in 1924 was 604,736, an increase of 22,827 on the figures of the previous year.

**Local distribu-
tion.**

100. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all the districts except Mymensingh, Dacca, Midnapore and Tippera.

The increase was most marked in Faridpur, Rajshahi, the 24-Parganas and Dinajpur and occurred chiefly in rent suits.

The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (62,122), where the number of money, rent and title suits (21,694, 32,774 and 7,654, respectively), was the heaviest in the province. In no other district did the institutions exceed 40,000.

The number of suits disposed of was 627,169, an increase of 47,479 on the figures of 1923.

Of the total number, 606,805 were disposed of by Munsifs, 12,739 by Subordinate Judges, 7,216 by Small Cause Court

Judges, and 409 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase in the courts of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges.

101. Of the suits disposed of during the year, 105,819 were decided without trial, 447,616 without contest and 73,734 on contest.

Results of suits decided.

Of the 73,734 suits decided on contest 573 were disposed of on reference to arbitration. Of the remainder, 61,266 or 83·7 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs, 11,895 or 16·3 per cent. in favour of the defendants.

102. The number of applications for an order to set aside an *ex-parte* judgment or a judgment on default, preferred during the year, was 21,542. Of these, 9,548 or 44·3 per cent. were successful.

Applications for re-trial.

103. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 557,157 to 606,805, an increase of 49,648.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,528 against 2,321 in 1923. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 22·2 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 291 against 278 in 1923.

The number of suits decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 41,595, as compared with 1923.

104. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 12,739, an increase of 658 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided under the Small Cause Court procedure, and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 6,129 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 6,610; of these 28 per cent. and 14·8 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure shows an increase and that of suits decided after contest under the Small Cause Court procedure a slight decrease, as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

105. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 7,216 original suits, of which 890 were contested, or 386 less than in the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

106. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 177,022, against 188,757 in the previous year. The decrease is chiefly due to larger disposals during the year.

Pending suits.

Of the pending suits, 13,009 had been pending for more than a year, 66,253 for more than six months and 41,494 for more than three months. The figures show a marked improvement in

the long pending arrears. Of the suits pending over one year, 9,533 were in the courts of Munsifs and 3,476 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease of 2,049 and 276, respectively, as compared with 1923. A large proportion of these suits (58·4 per cent.) were, however, pending for final decree.

Miscellaneous
cases.

107. Excluding transfers, there were 109,364 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature before the courts for disposal against 108,578 in the previous year. Of these 87,709 were disposed of, 222 were treated as suits on their becoming contested, and 21,433 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 33,340 were decided without trial, 39,163 without contest and 15,206 on contest or on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases, 1,035 were pending over a year, Burdwan being responsible for the largest number (378).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

108. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1924 and the number pending at its close were 23,482, 25,443 and 3,633, respectively. The number instituted and disposed of shows an increase of 1,322 and 2,249, respectively, while the number pending was smaller than in 1923 by 1,035. Seventy applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899).

The increase in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those valued at between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000.

Mode of disposal.

109. Of the suits disposed of, 1,038 were decided without trial, 18,805 without contest and 5,600 on contest or upon reference to arbitration.

Of the 3,633 suits pending at the close of the year, 772 were over three months old, against 1,639 in 1923.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under
section 15 of the
Letters Patent.

110. One hundred and ninety-nine appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 132 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 181 were decided and 150 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 30 more than in 1923. On the Appellate Side, 39 such appeals were filed during the year and 9 were pending at its commencement. Of these 19 were decided and 29 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

111. The following statement shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam :—

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate Courts.

	Remaining at the close of 1923.	Brought before the Court in 1924.	Disposed of in 1924.	Remaining at the close of 1924.
FIRST APPEALS.				
From original decrees ..	506	291	236(a)	561
From original orders ..	218	258	229	247
SECOND APPEALS.				
From appellate decrees ..	3,906	2,506	1,966(b)	4,446
From appellate orders ..	109	199	121	187
Total ..	4,739	3,254	2,552	5,441

(a) Including 32 will cases.

(b) Of these 109 were decided by a single Judge.

112. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges :—

Results of appeals.

	Affirmed.		Modified or reversed.	
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from—				
Original decrees ..	51	57	14	61
Appellate decrees ..	438	361	86	88
Miscellaneous appeals	43	70	31	41

III.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

113. Excluding transfers, the number of appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1924 was 33,381 against 30,654 in 1923.

Appeals for disposal.

The number of appeals instituted during the year was 16,696 against 15,165 in the previous year. Of these, 7,802 were in rent suits, 6,902 in title suits, and 1,992 in suits for money or moveables. The numbers show an increase in appeals in all classes of suits.

Appeals disposed of.

114. The number of appeals decided was 14,569 and exceeded the number decided in 1923 by 97. There was an increase of 162 in the courts of Subordinate Judges, and a decrease of 65 in those of District and Additional Judges as compared with the previous year.

The increase in disposals was spread over 12 districts and was largest in Nadia (484) followed by Chittagong (465) and Khulna (333).

On the other hand there was a noticeable decrease in Midnapore (511) which is attributed to the fact that in the disposals of 1923 there were several groups of appeals.

Appeals pending.

115. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 18,812 and was more than that of 1923 by 2,630.

The number of appeals over one year old rose from 4,084 to 5,128. Noakhali was accountable for the largest number, *viz.*, 1,189.

Results of appeals.

116. The results on the decisions of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year were as follows: In 7,722 cases, or 53 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower courts was affirmed; in 1,831 cases, or 12·6 per cent., it was modified and in 2,176 cases, or 14·9 per cent., it was reversed. Seven hundred and twenty-nine or 5 per cent. were remanded and 2,111 or 14·5 per cent. were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are more favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

General.

General.

117. There was a large increase in the number of original suits instituted, but the numbers disposed of being still larger, there was an appreciable reduction of the pending file. There was also an increase in the number of appeals preferred in the lower courts, but the number disposed of, though larger than in the previous year, could not keep pace with the number preferred with the result that the pending file rose. The number of year-old suits was smaller and that of year-old appeals larger than in the previous year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court, both the institutions and disposals were less than in the previous year and there was an increase in the pending file.

118. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,92,55,164, showing an increase of Rs. 2,94,645, and the charges to Rs. 86,23,835, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,76,185 on those of 1923. Including the amount realised on account of duty on probates amounting in all to Rs. 13,93,562, etc., the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 1,06,31,329: excluding this item, it amounted to Rs. 92,37,767. Details of the receipts and charges are as follows :—

RECEIPTS.					Rs
In stamps—					
Process fees	..	..	..	..	27,30,156
Other fees	..	..	..	..	1,52,72,542
In cash or special stamps—					
Other receipts	..	..	..	..	5,17,754
Copying and comparing fees	..	..	..	..	7,31,795
Fines	..	..	..	..	2,917
Total				..	1,92,55,164
CHARGES.					
Salaries of judicial officers	..	..	..	..	31,63,125
Establishment—					
Process-servers	..	..	..	..	11,84,529
Others	..	..	..	..	29,27,423
Copyists' fees	..	..	..	..	5,21,408
Contingencies and refunds	..	..	..	..	8,27,350
Total				..	86,23,835

There was an increase in receipts under all heads except "Fines". Under the head "Copying and comparing fees" the increase amounted to more than Rs. 1,29,000. The decrease in expenditure was under all heads except "Contingencies and refunds", and was the largest under the head "Salaries of judicial officers", which was Rs. 1,16,000 less than the previous year.

119. The total number of civil suits instituted during the year 1924 in the civil courts of the scheduled district of Chittagong Hill Tracts was 416, of which 412 were for money or moveable property and 4 were matrimonial suits. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 487. Of these 74 were contested and 137 were without trial, the number pending at the close of the year being 56. The total number of appeals from decrees was 45. Of these 43 were disposed of. The number of miscellaneous appeals was 71, of which 63 were disposed of. The number of applications for execution of decrees was 1,179, of which 216 were pending at the close of the year.

Civil Justice in
the scheduled dis-
trict of the
Chittagong Hill
Tracts.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of Jail Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1924].

Jail population.

120. The number of prisoners was almost the same as in the previous year. The average daily population was 13,476, the figure of 1923 being 13,734. The cost of guarding and maintaining these prisoners decreased from Rs. 24,04,832 in 1923 to Rs. 22,74,535 in 1924. Although the number of deaths increased from 207 to 226, the improvement in health noted last year was well maintained.

Juvenile offenders.

121. The number of juvenile convicts of less than 16 years of age fell from 310 in 1923 to 255 in 1924. No corporal punishment was inflicted in the Juvenile Jail. The improvement of the Juvenile Jail was discussed at a conference summoned by His Excellency Lord Lytton and the recommendations made by the conference were approved by the Jails Standing Committee and adopted by Government. They include structural alterations, the substitution of useful trades for the monotonous labour of making quinine tablets, the organisation of the institution on the lines of an industrial school, the removal of adolescent prisoners to another institution, and the keeping of under-trial prisoners in a separate remand home.

Visitors.

122. The Boards of Visitors have continued to do useful work. The quarterly joint inspections made by the Boards have increased the interest taken in the jails by the visitors and provide the Inspector-General of Prisons and Government with useful criticisms of the working of the jails.

Prisoners' Aid Societies.

123. The Calcutta Prisoners' Aid Society rendered help to prisoners after release. The result of enquiries made as to the possibility of starting branches of the society or similar associations in other places was disappointing, the replies received from the districts showing that the hope of local support or interest is small.

Prisoners' earnings.

124. The net earnings on manufactures rose from Rs. 6,32,544 in 1923 to Rs. 7,57,131 in 1924 and the average earnings of prisoners sentenced to labour from Rs. 57 to Rs. 74-10.

Jute Mill in the Presidency Jail.

125. The jute mill in the Presidency Jail had to be closed in the end of November, as the old machinery was reported to be in a dangerous condition. The question whether it should be re-equipped or other forms of labour adopted has not yet been decided. The prisoners are now employed on other industries.

Short sentences.

126. Of the total number of convicts admitted during the year 73.94 per cent. were under sentences not exceeding six months as against 72.62 per cent. in the preceding year.

127. The sick rate, 38·6 per mille, showed a further diminution as compared with the preceding four years. The death-rate slightly increased from 15·0 per mille in 1923 to 16·7 per mille in 1924.

Health and mor-
tality of
prisoners.

128. In accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Jails Committee in favour of closing as many district jails as possible and of concentrating prisoners in Central Jails, the district jail at Noakhali was converted into a sub-jail. Malda district jail has also been marked down for a similar reduction in status. The recommendation of the Jails Committee for the appointment of Advisory Boards to examine the cases of long-sentence prisoners has likewise been adopted and the suggestions made by these Boards for the release of well-behaved prisoners have in all cases been accepted by Government.

Jail administra-
tion.

Registration.

[Statistical returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1924.]

129. The number of offices open at the end of the year was 408 against the same number at the end of 1923. Four experimental offices were opened and four offices were closed during the year.

Progress and
Statistics of 1924.

The total income of the Registration Department increased from Rs. 24,04,220 in 1923 to Rs. 25,35,470 in 1924, *i.e.*, by 5·4 per cent. This was due to increase in registrations. The total expenditure, excluding refunds, increased from Rs. 16,92,274 in 1923 to Rs. 16,99,182 in 1924, *i.e.*, by 0·4 per cent., and was due mainly to additional expenditure on extra copying establishment and on office charges.

130. The outstanding feature of the working of the Indian Registration Act was the increase in registrations which rose from 1,698,602 in 1923 to 1,800,452 in 1924, *i.e.*, by 5·9 per cent. The increase was shared by all the districts in the Province except Hooghly and Howrah in the Burdwan Division, Jessore and Khulna in the Presidency Division, Bakarganj in the Dacca Division and Malda and Darjeeling in the Rajshahi Division. The increase amounted to 10·3 per cent. in the Dacca Division and 8·5 per cent. in the Rajshahi Division. In the Presidency Division there was a decrease of 1·1 per cent.

Results.

131. Fifty-seven marriages were registered during the calendar year 1924, under the Marriage Act III of 1872 against 53 in 1923. Out of these, 46 were registered in Calcutta, 7 in Dacca, 2 in Midnapore and 1 each in Chittagong and Birbhum. At the

Working of the
Marriage Act III
of 1872.

end of the year 1924, there were, as in the previous year, 45 Marriage Registrars including 28 *ex-officio* Registrars. Of these Marriage Registrars only 10 registered marriages during the year.

Working of the
Muhammadan
Registration Act
and the Kazis'
Act.

132. Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the Voluntary Registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was in force in the whole of this Presidency. The number of offices at the end of the year 1924 was 339 against 332 at the close of the preceding year. The total number of ceremonies registered during the year was 83,644 against 82,217 in 1923, showing an increase of 1·7 per cent. The slow progress of this scheme is due to the facts that in certain districts, particularly in the Rajshahi and Burdwan Divisions, the benefits of registration are not yet fully understood or appreciated, and that in some districts people prefer to have their *Kabins* registered by Sub-Registrars. The total receipts of the Muhammadan Registrars, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 1,70,233-15-6 in the year 1924, against Rs. 1,66,279-8-6 during 1923, showing an increase of 2·3 per cent.

Working of the
Indian Companies
Act, 1913 (VII of
1913), Provident
Insurance Socie-
ties Act, 1912 (V
of 1912) and
Societies Regis-
tration Act, 1860
(XXI of 1860).

133. At the close of the year under report there were in operation in Bengal 2,644 companies limited by shares with a total nominal capital of Rs. 3,28,68,06,074 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 1,18,09,53,505 as compared with 2,624 companies with Rs. 3,40,86,62,714 nominal and Rs. 1,09,84,08,468 paid-up capital at the end of the previous year. One hundred and seventy-three new companies and societies, or six less than the number incorporated in 1923-24, were registered. Of these 150 were limited by shares, 2 were limited by guarantee, and 21 representing various social and philanthropic objects were incorporated under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Five hundred and sixty-two companies increased while 40 companies reduced their capital during the year against 668 and 29, respectively, in the previous year. One hundred and twenty-seven companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, were finally dissolved, or otherwise became defunct, as compared with 53 companies in 1923-24. No investigation into the internal affairs of a company was directed under section 138 of the Act. Two hundred and seventeen prosecutions were instituted during the year and 12 were pending from the preceding year. Of these 172 ended in conviction, six resulted in the acquittal of the accused, while 46 were withdrawn or otherwise disposed of and 5 remained pending at the close of the year. There was evidence of laxity among the officials of many companies as regards their obligations under the law and their duties and responsibilities towards shareholders. Fraud in the promotion and liquidation of companies is becoming increasingly common. It may, however, be hoped, that the heavier penalties now being imposed by the courts will tend to check some of these abuses. The net

receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources aggregated Rs. 58,120 against Rs. 67,345 in 1923-24, the decrease being attributed to the falling off in the number of companies registered. No change was reported during the year in the list of societies registered under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912.

Municipal and Local Self-Government Departments.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1924-1925.]

134. Owing to the amalgamation of the three suburban municipalities of Cossipur-Chitpore, Maniktola and Garden Reach with the Corporation of Calcutta, the number of municipalities decreased to 115.

**Number of Muni-
cipalities.**

The figures for 1923-24 referred to in this report exclude those for the three suburban municipalities mentioned above.

135. General elections were held in 61 municipalities and were hotly contested in the majority of cases. In Burdwan not only did the educated people take an active part in the contest but the carters of the town set up a candidate from their own community who was returned with the highest number of votes. There was, however, no poll in any of the wards of the South Suburban and Kumarkhali municipalities. The percentage of attendance of voters in the elections was high in many cases: in the small town of Sherpur, in the district of Mymensingh, about 80 per cent. of voters recorded their votes. This high percentage of voters is, however, proof rather of the keen rivalry existing between two local factions than of any concern for municipal interests. The number of civil suits and objections filed by aggrieved parties for setting aside elections was higher than in the previous years. The most noticeable instance was that of the Dinajpur Municipality, where several suits were instituted. In Basirhat, though dates for the general election were fixed twice, it could not be held owing to injunctions issued by the Civil Court. The election of the Dacca Municipality, which was held in March, 1925, was followed by litigation and a temporary injunction. The issue of injunctions seriously hampers municipal administration and a more satisfactory and expeditious means of disposing of election disputes, such as the Bengal Municipal Bill provided, is much needed. The election of the Commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality, which was due in March, 1925, could not be held owing to the declaration

Elections.

by the Court that the Assam Bengal Railway Co., Ltd., had been illegally excluded from the list of voters and that there should be another publication of the voters' list. The election system was sanctioned for the Gaibandha Municipality with effect from the next reconstitution.

Number of rate-payers.

136. The total number of rate-payers rose from 313,177 to 317,895. The percentage of rate-payers to total population was 15·7 against 15·5 of the preceding year.

Assessment and taxation.

137. The average incidence of taxation per head of population rose from Rs. 2-12-5 to Rs. 3-0-4. A general or partial revision of assessment was made in 49 municipalities, the net result being an increase of about Rs. 1½ lakhs in the municipal demand of the Presidency as a whole.

Collections.

138. The total collections for the presidency as a whole rose from Rs. 54 lakhs to Rs. 59 lakhs, the percentage of collections on the current demand being 95·3. The collections were very satisfactory in 13 municipalities where the realization was either equal to or in excess of the current demand and in 14 others they were over 99 per cent. On the other hand, the ratio was under 80 per cent.—a deplorably low figure in 8 towns, falling as low as 58·4 per cent. in South Dum-Dum and 46·6 per cent. in Sherpur (Mymensingh). As usual, the Garulia and Nalchiti municipalities collected cent per cent of their demand without remission. Next comes the Titagarh Municipality with an improved collection of 99·6 per cent. of the demand granting a remission of only 3 per cent. and leaving no outstanding balance. The small municipalities of Baruipore and Meherpur also showed good collections.

The amount of remissions for the Presidency as a whole (Rs. 2,86,844) was practically the same as in the previous year and represented 4·6 per cent. of the current demand. The small municipalities of Muktagacha and Baraset remitted more than a quarter of their current demand. Large remissions indicate either careless assessment, or incapacity on the part of the collecting staff; it is an unsatisfactory method of disposing of large outstanding balances. The balances outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 13½ lakhs against Rs. 14 lakhs in the previous year. Howrah shows the largest balance outstanding, viz., Rs. 4,23,812. Next comes Dacca with an outstanding balance of Rs. 2,48,584.

Income and expenditure.

139. The total receipts, including opening balance, amounted to Rs. 1,06,03,381 against Rs. 99,91,595 in the year 1923-24. The total disbursements were Rs. 86,13,713 as against Rs. 83,74,917.

Closing balance.

140. The total balance at the close of the year amounted to nearly Rs. 20 lakhs as against Rs. 16 lakhs in the preceding year. The largest balances were held by Howrah (Rs. 3,83,849) Dacca (Rs. 2,13,905) and Darjeeling (Rs. 1,59,600). On the other hand a number of municipalities failed to keep adequate working balances and in several cases they were insufficient to meet outstanding liabilities.

Education.

141. The amount spent on education including the Government grant of Rs. 80,480 was Rs. 2,94,321 as against Rs. 2,56,314 in the preceding year. The expenditure on primary education also showed a corresponding increase of about Rs. 35,000, which is contributed by all the Divisions. Seventeen municipalities, however, or roughly one in seven, failed to spend 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income—the percentage which is taken to represent the amount required for the education of half the number of boys of primary school-going age. On the other hand the ratio was over 5 per cent. in 48 municipalities and over 10 per cent. in fifteen. The high percentage (14·3) in the case of Budge-Budge is due to an expenditure of Rs. 6,619 on the construction and equipment of a school building which forms part of the primary education scheme drawn up by Mr. Biss. Dacca and Midnapore have established three and five free primary schools respectively, on the Biss-model. Burdwan is also maintaining one school under this scheme which has also been accepted by the municipalities of Garulia and Kishoreganj. In the latter town an education cess has been introduced and school houses are being constructed. The Commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality have improved some of their existing primary schools, and added a new upper primary school. They have also drawn up a scheme of free primary education within the municipal limits. An education cess at the rate of 1·6 per cent. on the municipal valuation is levied at Rangpur and sanction for a cess at the rate of 1 per cent. has been applied for by the Commissioners of the Berhampore Municipality. The Burdwan Municipality has made a free gift of some land for starting a middle school for girls of which Government will bear the recurring charges and the initial expenditure on school buildings.

Water-supply.

142. As usual Tollygunge and South Suburban municipalities were supplied with filtered water from the Calcutta mains while seven other municipalities got their supply from the local mill filters. Excluding these, there are at present 27 municipalities which have their own water-works. The number of persons supplied with filtered water was about nine lakhs and the total quantity supplied was about 10 million gallons per day. The water-works at Raniganj could not be completed owing to a

sudden flood which did much damage to the new well in the river bed. The operations in connection with the Comilla water-works, to which Government made a loan of Rs. 45,000 were almost completed during the year. A water-supply scheme for the town of Suri was sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,60,700 and boring operations were undertaken. An extension of the Bankura water-supply scheme was sanctioned by Government but the work was delayed pending a decision regarding the type of pipes to be used. A revised scheme for the improvement of water-supply of Kalna at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,30,000 was drawn up. The water-works scheme for the northern section of Chandpur was sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 92,000 towards which Government promised a grant of Rs. 20,000 and a loan of Rs. 32,000. The filter of the Patuakhali water-works was repaired and a new engine supplied to the Patuakhali water-works at a cost of Rs. 2,500. The improvement of the Chittagong water-supply was confined to the cleansing of tube wells and existing machinery. There was some extension of water-pipes in Dacca and the total number of house connections rose from 1,611 to 1,655. The average daily consumption of water in Mymensingh has risen from 235,000 gallons in 1921 to 3½ lakh gallons. This excessive consumption coupled with absence of control and lack of funds has brought the Municipality to a serious impasse. It has therefore been decided that the Commissioners should thoroughly investigate the causes of the present excessive consumption and improve their financial position before embarking on any new scheme for the extension of water-works. The water-works of the Berhampore Municipality were in charge of the Public Health Department and Government advanced a loan of Rs. 10,000 for its improvement.

The supply of water by tube wells having proved successful in certain soils and at the same time cheaper, several municipalities—especially in the Presidency Division—decided to sink such wells. Baruipore, which already had 24 tube wells, sank 4 more during the year. Halisahar sank four tube wells, South Dum Dum three and Kanchrapara one. The latter municipality has also excavated two pucca wells and Budge-Budge a reserved tank. Tube wells were also provided by the municipalities of Tollygunge, South Suburban and Basirhat. In Rajshahi a pump and an engine were affixed to the tube well which was sunk there at Government cost. English Bazar and Bogra received a grant of Rs. 11,000 and Rs. 19,000, respectively, from Government towards the cost of boring experimental tube wells.

all but 15 municipalities. The revised estimate of the Bhatpara sewerage scheme has recently been submitted to Government. The work of the Titagarh sewerage scheme is being carried on under the direct supervision of the Department of Public Health. The principal dumping depôts and public latrines necessary for the island area of the Dacca sewerage were constructed and brought into operation during the year. The wooden roofs of the septic tanks of the Kurseong sewerage have been replaced by ferro-concrete roofing and the alteration to the detritus chamber has greatly improved its efficiency, the breeding of mosquitoes in the tanks having been entirely stopped. The supplementary drainage scheme of the English Bazar Municipality, which is estimated to cost Rs. 18,000, received approval. In Budge-Budge the Chitragunje sluice project was completed and in Kanchrapara a big drain from Dangapara to Baglakhal was constructed. A portion of the Grand Trunk Road side drain in the Rishra-Konnagar bustee was constructed and regraded. Minor drainage works were also carried out in several other towns.

144. Almost all the municipalities adopted measures for the improvement of sanitation by filling up, clearing or disinfecting insanitary tanks, ditches and *dobas* and by removing jungle and obnoxious vegetation.

Public Health.

Precautionary measures were taken by a large number of municipalities to check the spread of epidemics. Medicines and disinfectants were freely distributed and special doctors were appointed where necessary.

Free vaccination was provided by many municipalities and effective measures were taken to vaccinate and revaccinate children.

In several municipalities food-stuffs offered for sale to the public were examined and when found to be unwholesome were either destroyed or removed from the bazar.

145. The amount spent on public works rose from Rs. 10,28,484 to Rs. 11,39,602, the largest increase occurring under the head "Roads" which was contributed by all the Divisions. The percentage of outlay on public works to the total expenditure varied from .2 in Bhola to 50.9 in Debhatta.

Public Works.

146. Loans amounting to Rs. 1,25,000 were granted to four municipalities, viz., Comilla (Rs. 45,000), Serampore (Rs. 60,000) and Berhampore and Jessore (each Rs. 10,000). Altogether 40 municipalities were in debt to Government at the end of the year, their total liabilities amounting to nearly Rs. 35 lakhs.

Loans.

147. The accounts of almost all the municipalities were audited. Little attention is, however, paid by municipalities to

Audit of ac-
counts and em-
bezzlement.

remedy the defects and irregularities noticed in the audit reports. It is therefore not surprising that cases of defalcation appear to be of more frequent occurrence. Embezzlement or misappropriation of municipal money occurred in Hooghly-Chinsurah, Baruipore, Halisahar, Kanchrapara and Dinajpur, but the amounts misappropriated were recovered and in the first two named municipalities the offenders were dismissed. The head clerk of the Noakhali Municipality was criminally prosecuted and convicted for misappropriating municipal money. The case of embezzlement detected during the previous year in Jamalpur was disposed of, the collecting sarkar having been convicted.

General Remarks.

148. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division observes that there are signs of an awakening and a dissatisfaction with the bad management of municipalities in the last few years. A zealous regard for the public interest manifesting itself in a careful supervision of both indoor and outdoor work is even more urgently required than an increase of taxation. The improvement of water-works and construction of good pucca drains are the principal wants of Burdwan. Two oil engines are being erected for working the water-works pumps at that place. In Kalna, kala-azar is reported to be gradually disappearing owing to the opening of hospitals in different parts of the subdivision. The condition of the roads and the arrangement of street lighting in Katwa continued to be unsatisfactory. The Commissioners of the Asansol Municipality are now anxious to have water-works in the town but they are confronted with financial difficulties. In the municipal administration in the district of Bankura party faction prevailed. Proper attention was not paid to the repair and cleaning of roads, privies and drains. The lighting arrangements were unsatisfactory. Collections in Bankura and Vishnupur were bad. This state of affairs was mainly due to the want of supervision on the part of the municipal executive. In Midnapore the best managed municipalities were Tamluk and Ghatal, both of which now have Swarajist Chairmen. The administration of the Chandrakona Municipality was inefficient and was marred by faction and party spirit. The general administration of the Midnapore Municipality was unsatisfactory and there was much discontent among the rate-payers. A marked feature of the administration of the Hooghly-Chinsurah municipality was the constant and repeated complaints of the partial or total failure of water-supply. At the close of the year as the result of utter laxity of control there were unpaid bills amounting to Rs. 32,386 against a cash balance of Rs. 10,681. In Serampore, the collections improved a little but a great deal yet remains to be done. The state of roads in this town requires special attention.

149. The Magistrate of the 24-Parganas writes as follows regarding the working of the municipalities in his district:—

“A few municipalities in the industrial area are efficiently managed, tackle their problems energetically and are alive to the needs of a town population. At the other end of the scale there are many more, not so advantageously placed, some of them, rather resembling overgrown villages, where a sense of civic pride and responsibility is confined to a few, where faction is not unknown and where, in the sphere of practical municipal work, the prevailing note is too often one of lassitude and *laissez faire*. The activities which deserve notice are mainly those directed to improve public health. The Naihati and Bhatpara schemes for water-supply have been worked out in detail and have been submitted to the Sanitary Board. Kamarhati has a scheme in view while certain other municipalities made progress in the sinking of tube-wells. The Titagarh sewerage scheme is still making slow progress and a scheme has been prepared for Kamarhati. An epidemic of small-pox, which was more severe in the densely populated municipalities in the industrial centres, was met by increased vaccination and other precautions. Little interest was on the whole evinced in the extension of primary education, but Budge-Budge should be mentioned as an exception.”

The Magistrate of Nadia remarks that on the whole municipal affairs in that district “have been quiescent save in Santipur and Nabadwip where the interests of opposing factions create an unreal atmosphere of energy which is not actually beneficial to the public. The executives of these municipalities dissipate their energies in internecine strife”. In Santipur the expenditure on water-supply amounted to Rs. 67 spent in repairs to a well. In Nabadwip out of Rs. 480 budgeted for water-supply only Rs. 29-7 was expended. The chief problem of the Krishnagar Municipality is a lack of good roads. The Commissioners have taken a loan of Rs. 25,000 during the year 1925-26 for this purpose. The water-works have proved of the greatest benefit to the health of this town. Several municipalities, viz., Santipur, Birnagar and Chakdaha present a very difficult sanitary problem. All three are large areas comprising many deserted homesteads, abandoned tanks and tangled undergrowth. At Kusthia the Commissioners have a development scheme and have acquired land and constructed roads in advance of the growth of the town. This municipality is efficiently administered and shows commendable foresight and unanimity of opinion. The municipal administration of the Murshidabad district was efficient so far as municipal funds permitted. The health of the municipal towns was generally

good. The new Jessore Municipal Board has made a start. Kotechandpur continued to do excellent work while Moheshpur showed further deterioration. Good work was done by the Khulna Municipality. The town was visited by small-pox in an epidemic form but the Municipal Commissioners took speedy measures to check the disease.

The Commissioner of this Division makes the following remarks:—

“No striking advance was achieved in the administration of municipalities during the year under review. The marked difference between the standard of administration of the good and bad municipalities commented on in the previous reports continues. The realisation of tax in some municipalities is very unsatisfactory while the cost of administration is heavy though the actual work done is very small. It is much to be desired that the Commissioners should realise their civic responsibilities and adopt coercive measures for the realisation of taxes without too much fear of unpopularity, take more real interest in the affairs of the municipalities and adopt business-like methods in replying to correspondence and attending to audit objections.”

Dacca Division.

150. The most notable achievement of the Dacca Municipality was the opening of three primary schools as an earnest of their desire to equip the whole city with free schools of this type. Certain extensions to the lighting and pipe-water system were also carried out. The Narainganj Municipality, described in the *District Gazetteer* published in 1912 as probably the most efficient in Bengal can no longer claim this distinction. The financial condition of the municipalities in the district of Mymensingh indicates a remarkable absence of business ability. This characteristic appears to be due partly to inexperience and partly to the fact that Municipal Commissioners are usually busy men who have their own livelihood to earn. It is accentuated by the absence from most municipal boards of any technical knowledge or experience and encouraged by a spurious sentimentality which regards enforcement of the provisions of sections 121-124 of the Municipal Act as a great hardship. It would seem that most of the above difficulties would disappear if municipalities had paid secretaries thoroughly acquainted with their work and of sufficient standing both to influence opinion and control the clerical staff. In the District of Bakarganj the municipalities on the whole are doing their best with the resources at their disposal. The Barisal Municipality is taking special steps to deal with its heavy arrear demand.

151. The Municipal Commissioners of Chittagong deserve credit for their various activities in spite of their financial difficulties. The special feature of the Comilla Municipality was the completion of its water-works. Noakhali is still subject to erosion on the northern side while on the east and south sides a large reformation is going on. The financial condition of the municipality is bad and there is no immediate hope of improvement.

Chittagong Division.

152. The Commissioner of the Division observes :—

Rajshahi Division.

“ The Rajshahi Municipality has suffered much from party faction amongst the Commissioners. The water-supply project of the municipality is yet very incomplete and it is doubtful if funds will be found for financing it. The party faction in the Dinajpur Municipality was so strong that 5 Commissioners immediately resigned after election because their party was not in a majority. The municipality is in need of a loan to finance the project for construction of the Dinbazar bridge over the Karolla and the application has been recommended to Government. In Rangpur Municipality it is too early yet to say how far the education cess has furthered the cause of primary education. The finances of the Pabna Municipality show little improvement and it is doubtful if the municipality will be able to pay its share of the water-works scheme. In Bogra there have been complaints against the municipality's negligence of roads in the town. The work of the Darjeeling Municipality has always been up to the mark.

Calcutta Corporation.

[Report on the administration of the Calcutta Corporation for the year 1923-24.]

153. The report on the administration of the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1924-25 had not been received at the time of going to press. The following review relates to the working of the Corporation for the year 1923-24.

Introductory.

154. The Revenue Funds opened with a balance of Rs 32,72,120; the receipts amounted to Rs. 1,82,44,965 and the payments to Rs. 1,74,07,609. On the basis of assets and liabilities, the income amounted to Rs. 1,84,27,539 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,74,26,438. The consolidated rate which forms the bulk of the revenue of the Corporation yielded, as in the previous years, a substantial increase of Rs. 8½ lakhs and there was an unforeseen item of receipt amounting to Rs. 6,29,549, being the excess accumulation in the Sinking Funds, which was transferred to the Revenue Funds. The year 1923-24 closed with a balance of

Finances.

Rs. 41,09,476 or Rs. 8,37,356 more than at the beginning notwithstanding a substantial increase of expenditure out of revenue on various works of improvement.

No new loan was raised during the year. The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 6,10,32,992 against which there was an accumulation of Rs. 81,35,684 in the Sinking Funds taking the securities at the market value. The total annual liability on account of interest and contribution to the Sinking Funds at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 41,25,635.

**Assessment De-
partment.**

155. As the result of general revision of assessments and the construction of new buildings, there was an increase of Rs. 47,72,000 in the assessed annual valuation of the city which stood at Rs. 7,11,47,000 at the end of the year. More than half the total increase was obtained from Wards 7, 8 and 9.

**Surveyor's Depart-
ment.**

156. The Department prepared plans and estimates for 117 projects estimated to cost Rs. 1,32½ lakhs and acquired nearly 44 bighas at a total cost of Rs. 5,42,000.

**Collection Depart-
ment.**

157. The total gross demand on account of consolidated rate was Rs. 1,34,26,631, of which Rs. 1,25,46,864 was collected and Rs. 5,78,609 was cancelled for vacancy. Excluding the demand transferred to the Law Department for recovery by suit, and to the Assessor for amendment, the amount pending with the Collector at the close of the year was Rs. 53,161. The percentage of collection on the gross current demand less the amount pending with the Assessor was 95.89 and on the net current demand (*i.e.*, after elimination of the demand cancelled for vacancy) was 99.4.

**License Depart-
ment.**

158. The total collections on account of license taxes amounted to Rs. 14,89,295, of which Rs. 10,65,311 was on account of the tax on trades and professions, Rs. 2,13,940 on account of the tax in respect of carriages and animals and Rs. 1,16,389 on account of fees for the registration of carts. The Department issued 66,594 licenses of various kinds, and also collected Rs. 1,12,885 under the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act.

**Lighting Depart-
ment.**

159. There were 15,316 gas lamps in the city at the end of the year, besides a small number of oil and electric lamps. Owing to a dispute with the Oriental Gas Company in regard to their liability to lay gas mains at their own cost in the new roads constructed by the Calcutta Improvement Trust in connection with Scheme V (Bhowanipur), the Corporation decided to adopt electric lighting in these roads.

Water-supply.

160. The total daily quantity of filtered water supplied to the city amounted to 36½ million gallons and the daily average consumption per head was 39.2 gallons, as against 37½ million gallons

and 39.7 gallons per head supplied in the previous year. The decrease was due to a diminution of supply for a few days owing to the execution of some urgent repairs to the machinery at the Intake Station at Pulta. The total quantity of unfiltered water supplied was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 31½ million gallons, the average consumption per head per day being 34.9 gallons. One of the engines at the Talla Pumping Station having broken down one of the electrical units on order for the Mullick Ghat Pumping Station in connection with the scheme for the improvement of the water-supply, was installed at Tallah as a temporary measure. There was considerable difficulty in keeping up the supply of unfiltered water from the Mallik Ghat Pumping Station as one of the engines had to be shut down to make room for new electric pumps. Three out of the seven electrical units were completed and set to work shortly after the close of the year.

Substantial progress has been made in connection with the scheme for the improvement of the water-supply. Owing to the amalgamation of the Suburban municipalities of Cossipur-Chitpore, Maniktala and Garden Reach with Calcutta, the original scheme had to be expanded and additional works estimated to cost Rs. 45,47,073 have been sanctioned.

161. About a mile of new sewers were constructed and an expenditure of Rs. 3,67,000 was incurred during the year in connection with several main drainage projects. The work of cleansing brick sewers which was transferred to the Drainage Department in 1921 has been re-organised and a great deal of useful work done in removing the silt deposits.

Drainage.

As regards the drainage outfall, the results of the dredging operations carried out in the Bidyadhari River were short-lived and although these operations have slightly prolonged the life of the river they have not arrested its deterioration. The problem was examined further by the Calcutta Sewage and Storm Water Disposal Committee who recommended a scheme for the construction of a permanent spill reservoir about half a square mile in area at the head of the river. The scheme was estimated to involve a capital expenditure of Rs. 26,84,031 and an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 5½ lakhs. Subject to the Legislative Council voting the necessary grants, Government offered to bear half the cost if the Corporation would bear the other half. The latter undertook to do so subject to certain conditions, but the matter could not be proceeded with owing to an adverse vote in the Council in regard to funds. Subsequently the Corporation resolved to carry out a survey of the river to collect detailed information before deciding on any scheme of resuscitating the river. This survey is in progress.

**Bustee Depart-
ment.**

162. The action taken by the Bustee Department resulted in 17 bighas being cleared of huts, in the construction of about three quarters of a mile of bustee roads, and the provision of sanitary conveniences in several bustees. Thirty-one private streets were improved and 10 bustees surveyed with a view to action being taken for their improvement.

Conservancy.

163. The daily average quantity of refuse dealt with was 1,159 tons and the total expenditure on street cleansing, the incinerator and the Municipal Railway amounted to Rs. 20,50,000. A scheme for the installation of an aerial ropeway, electrically operated, for conveying refuse from the proposed platform at Chingrighatta to the dumping ground was considered but had to be dropped as the tenders received were very high. It was considered desirable to provide for the abolition of the Municipal Railway in the town proper before aiming at its abolition in the outskirts. Owing to objections raised by the residents of the locality the construction of the new platform at Chingrighatta was not proceeded with. The whole scheme is now under the consideration of a Special Committee appointed by the Corporation.

Roads.

164. The total expenditure on road repairs amounted to Rs. 9,89,000. In addition, a sum of Rs. 2,96,000 was spent in paving roads with asphaltum and Rs. 2,09,000 on minor road improvements.

**Building Depart-
ment.**

165. There was a further increase in the number of applications submitted for sanction which rose from 9,470 to 9,969. There were 1,328 buildings under construction at the end of the year. A serious building accident occurred during the year by the collapse of the Muhammadan Orphanage in Syed Salley Lane resulting in the loss of 42 lives. The circumstances leading to the collapse were carefully enquired into by a Special Committee of the Corporation who came to the finding that it was due to some dangerous deviations made without the sanction or the knowledge of the Corporation staff in the course of the extension of the third storey. This incident has drawn pointed attention to the necessity of greater check upon and supervision over the construction of buildings in Calcutta. No less than 1,107 notices were served during the year in respect of insecure buildings.

Public Health.

166. The rate of mortality during the year further declined from 29.1 per thousand to 28.5 per thousand, owing to diminished mortality from cholera, small-pox, tuberculosis and influenza. On the other hand, there was a slight increase in the mortality from fevers, bowel complaints and respiratory diseases. The Health Officer having drawn attention to the increasing prevalence of kala-azar in the city, from which 501 deaths occurred, the Corporation decided to establish centres for the treatment of this disease.

There was a widespread epidemic of dengue during the year which laid prostrate about a third of the population of the city although only 31 deaths were recorded under this head. There were 5,366 deaths of infants, the rate of infantile mortality being 294·6 per thousand registered births as compared with 287 recorded in the previous year. The total number of births registered in Calcutta during the year was 18,212 or 20·1 per thousand, being a slight improvement on the previous two years' returns when 19·1 and 19·0 per thousand were registered.

The Lady Health Visitors and Midwives employed by the Corporation continued to do very useful work in connection with maternity and child welfare. They delivered altogether 3,870 cases and removed 94 difficult cases of labour to hospitals. Excluding still-births there were 93 deaths during the first ten days out of 3,870 babies delivered by the Corporation Midwives, giving a death rate of 24 per thousand, while the general infantile death rate for the city during the first week was 100·5 per thousand. There were only 3 deaths among the women attended by the Corporation staff.

167. The total number of samples of foodstuffs of all kinds analysed during the year was 4,885 of which 980 samples were found adulterated, 461 out of 1,019 samples of milk, 131 out of 1,144 samples of ghee, 104 out of 856 samples of mustard oil, 48 out of 65 samples of sago and 35 out of 91 samples of cornflour and arrowroot. The total number of prosecutions instituted during the year was 2,756 and the fines amounted to Rs. 39,687. The total quantity of foodstuffs destroyed during the year amounted to 3,605 maunds.

Food Inspection.

168. The new market at the junction of Lower Circular Road and Police Hospital Road was completed during the year and was brought into use in December, 1923. The total revenue from the five Municipal Markets amounted to Rs. 10,61,061 being about Rs. 37,000 in excess of the previous year's figure.

Municipal Markets.

169. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation for educational purposes of all kinds amounted to Rs. 1,95,326. The school buildings provided by Rai Bahadur Sasi Buson Day in Nebutolla Lane, one for boys and the other for girls, were completed during the year. Two sites have been selected—one in District III and the other in District I—for the erection of model schools, and a plot of Corporation surplus land in Lansdowne Road has been ear-marked for the purpose of a training college. Pending the construction of model schools, the Corporation continued the policy of establishing primary schools in borrowed buildings. At the end of the year there were 19 Corporation schools with 2,500 pupils. No fees are charged in these schools.

Education.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1924-25.]

**Improvement
schemes.**

170. Two improvement schemes were sanctioned while a number of street alignment schemes were framed for Maniktola with a view to construct main sewer roads for the drainage of that area. One of these alignments, *viz.*, Beliaghata Main Road Widening was published for public criticism. Six improvement schemes, including the entire length of Central Avenue from Prinsep Street to Chowringhee, were completed or almost completed, and two others were in progress. On the other hand, improvement scheme No. XXIV for the extension of Lindsay Street was abandoned. Pending the final selection of a site for the new Howrah Bridge for which a Bill was introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council in August last, nothing could be done towards the improvement of Burra Bazar for which alignments of the proposed new roads have already been settled. For the same reason proposals for the removal of the Mint and for the utilization of the Strand Bank lands, which are connected with the improvement of Burra Bazar, were held in abeyance. In order to develop the area lying east of Russa Road, the Board decided to subsidize the tramway service which the Calcutta Tramways Co., Ltd., propose to open along the main sewer road from Russa Road to the Ballygunge railway station.

Open spaces.

171. The small park at Batan Sarkar Garden Street was made over to the Calcutta Corporation after completion. The construction of the open space as a substitute for Kenderdine Square, which was utilized for the Central Avenue, was completed during the year. Satisfactory progress was made in the construction of roads and drains in connection with the Cossipur-Chitpore Park which covers an area of 225 bighas.

**Rehousing
schemes.**

172. The position of the rehousing schemes undertaken by the Trust was the same as in the previous year. Seven blocks of buildings containing suites of one to three rooms have been constructed in the Bow Street area acquired for rehousing Anglo-Indians. The one-roomed and two-roomed suites are all full and the three-roomed ones are in fair demand. Of the ninety-six small sites on the Paikpara Road provided for those who have been displaced by the operations of the Trust only two were sold during the year.

Finance.

173. The Board's income derived from the duty on transfer of property amounted to Rs. 5,13,151 as compared with Rs. 4,19,564 in the year 1923-24. This increase is due, as anticipated in the previous year's report, to the inclusion of the suburban areas of Cossipur-Chitpore, Garden Reach and Maniktola within the

Calcutta Municipality. The terminal tax (Rs. 2,13,481) shows a small increase of Rs. 13,000, but the duty levied on jute rose from Rs. 9,73,781 to Rs. 10,91,317. The Corporation contribution increased to about rupees 15 lakhs as against 13 lakhs in the previous year. Temporary lettings of undemolished buildings fetched rents amounting to Rs. 2½ lakhs and about 2 lakhs and 26½ lakhs of rupees were realised from exemption fees and sale of lands and buildings. A ten years' debenture loan of Rs. 16 lakhs was floated with the Imperial Bank of India in order to provide funds for land acquisition, the total outlay on which was Rs. 59.19 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 18.19 lakhs was spent on engineering works. The total income and expenditure under the Capital Account were respectively Rs. 42½ lakhs and Rs. 79½ lakhs, and those under the Revenue Account Rs. 43½ lakhs and Rs. 23½ lakhs. The deficit in the Capital Account was met from the Revenue Account which closed with a net balance of Rs. 62½ lakhs.

District Boards.

[The reports of the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1924-25.]

174. The total number of members increased from 663 to 676, the increase being due to the enlargement of the Birbhum and Jessore District Boards with an elective majority. The percentage of elected members in the Province rose from 57.5 to 58.3. In the Howrah District Board, which was reconstituted during the year, new blood was introduced with more pronounced democratic views, as a result of the more widespread interest taken in the district in matters concerning local self-government.

District Boards.

175. As in the previous year the number of Local Boards was 82 which were presided over by 76 non-official and 6 official Chairmen. They held 889 meetings against 928 in the previous year; 17 meetings proved abortive for want of a quorum.

Local Boards.

176. Up to the end of the year 2,762 Union Boards were sanctioned, of which nearly 1,500 were in working order. Propaganda work for the establishment of new Union Boards was carried on by Circle Officers who explained to the people the provisions and advantages of the Act. In most places their attempts were successful and many proposals for the creation of new Boards were matured. In some places where there were no Circle Officers the Subdivisional Officers made it a point to sound the opinion of the local people in the course of their tours. In Noakhali, towards the end of the year, the Commissioner of the

Village Self-Government.

Chittagong Division presided over a conference of President Panchayats and others. Each President was furnished with a Bengali edition of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act for perusal and for an expression of his views as to the necessity or otherwise of the establishment of Union Boards. The work could not be hurried as opposition and suspicion had to be disarmed by tactful methods.

The Union Boards which worked during the year realised both under clauses (a) and (b) of section 37 of the Act, Rs. 20 lakhs including the rents of chaukidari chakran lands, of which Rs. 16 lakhs was spent on establishment leaving a balance of Rs. 4 lakhs only for communications, water-supply and other sanitary measures. Though the balance is far too small for these purposes, it is satisfactory to note that it considerably exceeds that (Rs. 3 lakhs) of the previous year. Some Union Boards maintained regular dispensaries, distributed quinine free, organised anti-malarial societies, took measures for the improvement of rural water-supply and sanitation and generally evinced a keen interest in the welfare of the village population. Free primary schools were also maintained by some Unions and in many places the Boards rendered considerable help in settling local disputes. The Jorehat Union Board in the district of Howrah actually introduced street lighting in its main village thoroughfares. On the whole, there was steady progress, though in many Unions faction and apathy amongst the members and lack of initiative on the part of the President tended to limit the activities of the Boards to the payment of chaukidars.

Finance of District Boards.

177. The receipts amounted to Rs. 133 lakhs against Rs. 126·8 lakhs in 1923-24, the increase being mainly due to larger receipts under Local Rates, Medical, Civil Works and Debt heads. Receipts under Education and Miscellaneous declined. The disbursements rose from Rs. 127 lakhs to Rs. 131 lakhs. The increase was chiefly due to increased expenditure under Education, Medical and Civil Works. The closing balance amounted to Rs. 37·6 lakhs (of which Rs. 22·5 lakhs were in cash) against Rs. 36·4 lakhs in 1923-24.

Taxation.

178. The average incidence of taxation throughout the Presidency was 2 annas 9 pies a head per annum varying in different districts from 1 anna 4 pies to 9 annas 9 pies.

Education.

179. The expenditure rose by Rs. 46,000 to Rs. 29·9 lakhs of which Government contributed Rs. 16·4 lakhs while contributions from other sources, school fees, and miscellaneous receipts

amounted to Rs. 3 lakhs, Rs. 4 lakhs and Rs. 36 lakhs, respectively. District Boards from their own funds contributed Rs. 12.4 lakhs against an almost equal amount contributed by them in 1923-24. The number of upper and lower primary schools maintained and aided by District Boards rose from 40,859 to 41,490 of which 31,750 were boys' schools and 9,740 were girls' schools. The number of girls' schools declined by 164, but the number of pupils attending them increased by 5,130. Union Boards continued to maintain the free primary schools started by them in previous years on the lines suggested by Mr. Biss and the three schools started in the Shibpur Union by the Bakarganj District Board are reported to have proved very successful. New schools of this type were started during the year at Astagharlia (Burdwan), Khejurdaha (Hooghly), and Bagnan (Howrah). The 24-Parganas District Board sanctioned the establishment of one such school at Narayanpur and agreed to pay one-fourth of the maintenance charges. Buildings for two similar schools were constructed by the Pabna District Board. It is satisfactory to record even a small increase in the number of schools of this type. Technical and industrial education, as usual, continued to receive the special attention of District Boards. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division (Mr. Cook) sounds a note of warning here. He says, "Unfortunately the members of the committees have little knowledge of these crafts and have no standard up to which they should insist on the teaching being kept. The result is that the training stands in danger of becoming poor with the result that the finished product of the school, either as pupil or articles, is no better than can be found anywhere in the bazar". The proposal for the establishment of a technical school at Krishnagar with a private donation of Rs. 1 lakh made further progress. The donors paid one-half of the promised donation and negotiation is going on with the owners of a private house in the town for the free gift of the house to accommodate the school.

180. The expenditure under these heads aggregated Rs. 18 lakhs against Rs. 17 lakhs of the preceding year. The increase is noticeable in most of the districts and was most marked in Midnapore, Burdwan and Bakarganj. Fifty-five new dispensaries were opened during the year and the total number of dispensaries maintained and aided were 463 and 326, respectively. Medical relief was, as usual, provided primarily through these institutions and also through a small number of homeopathic, kaviraji and hakimi dispensaries maintained or subsidized by District Boards. Arrangements were also made to provide medical relief in rural areas during epidemics by engaging temporary

Medical Relief
and Public
Health.

itinerant doctors who distributed medicines free, treated cases, disinfected wells and took measures to prevent the spread of cholera, small-pox and other infectious diseases. Dispensaries were also maintained by some Union Boards. In some places dispensaries were opened to serve single Unions; Bengal cannot yet afford so small a unit and it would probably be better for District Boards to encourage co-operation between a group of Union Boards in the maintenance of a larger dispensary with greater funds. The District Board of Burdwan maintained 13 temporary fever dispensaries during the fever season while the Khulna District Board appointed a special malaria committee to suggest measures for changing the medical policy of the Board. The recommendations of the committee to establish subsidised doctors and kavirajes at six centres in the district was adopted by the Board with some modifications. A good many anti-malarial societies and private health associations worked during the year. They took preventive measures against malaria by cutting jungle, cleansing and cutting drains, filling up and kerosinising *dobas* and stagnant pools of water.

Besides the dispensaries maintained and aided by District Boards where there were arrangements for the periodical treatment of kala-azar patients, special arrangements were made by most of the Boards for the treatment and prevention of the disease. Many out-centres and syb-centres were opened and supplied with requisite medicines and instruments. A good number of centres was also started by honorary workers and the Boards supplied them with medicines and apparatus free of charge. The doctors of many anti-malarial societies also treated kala-azar cases free of charge. But most noteworthy in this field was the action of the 24-Parganas District Board which set apart a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs for combating kala-azar and malaria. The scheme of the Board, which was inaugurated during the year under review, has been fully elaborated and a committee formed with the Director of Public Health as President and the District Magistrate as Vice-President to see to its successful working. Forty-seven treatment centres have so far been established. The Governor in Council desires to congratulate District Boards on the valuable work they have done in providing for the treatment of kala-azar. Malaria is still the outstanding problem, but the former disease has, during the last 2 or 3 years, been consolidating the position it had gained and the rapid multiplication of treatment centres are essential. The District Boards of Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, Jessore, Khulna, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Tippera, Noakhali, Pabna, Malda and Dinajpur all did excellent work in treating kala-azar cases, while

the work of the Naogaon centre in Rajshahi deserves special mention:

Serious epidemics of cholera broke out in several places, but the spread of the disease was checked by prompt action taken in the shape of disinfecting sources of water-supply and inoculating the people in the affected villages and their neighbourhood with anti-cholera vaccine supplied free of charge by the Public Health Department. This method of inoculation met with no opposition from the public and is said to have produced satisfactory results. In the 24-Parganas District a special staff consisting of five sanitary Inspectors was lent by Government to combat cholera for some months during the epidemic season. A very severe outbreak in Dinajpur was brought under control by the energetic efforts of the District Health Officer. There were outbreaks of small-pox in several districts. In all these cases measures were taken to check the progress of the disease. Free vaccination on the gang system was carried on in Rajshahi from 1,548 depôts and it is reported that in consequence of this arrangement there were few deaths in the district from small-pox. Free vaccination by a paid staff was introduced during the year in Pabna. In the Bakarganj district the compulsory system of vaccination which had been introduced in the preceding year in the Kotwali thana was extended in a modified form to the other thanas of the district with a fair degree of success. It is reported that altogether 98,328 operations were performed, of which 90,310 were successful. The District Board of Rajshahi opened no less than 1,545 depôts for vaccination work.

181. The charges under this head increased from Rs. 1,71,500 to Rs. 1,81,000, the increase being shared by many District Boards, notably by the Birbhum, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Rangpur District Boards. The expenditure decreased considerably in the Noakhali and Darjeeling districts. In the last year's resolution adverse remarks were made on the veterinary policy of the Bankura District Board, the expenditure of which under this head fell from Rs. 6,000 in 1922-23 to Rs. 2,000 in 1923-24. The expenditure of this Board during the year under review (Rs. 3,000) shows a slight increase but it was inadequate, as there was an abnormal increase in the number of rinderpest epidemics which could not be properly attended to by the single veterinary assistant entertained by the Board. Cattle disease in an epidemic form broke out in several other districts where prompt measures were taken to check its progress. The veterinary assistants did good service and the utility of their operations was highly appreciated by the people. New veterinary dispensaries were opened in the Rampurhat subdivision of the Birbhum

Veterinary.

district and at Rajbari in the Faridpur district and steps were being taken for the establishment of one at Tangail in Mymensingh, towards which the Santosh Wards Estate made a contribution of Rs. 7,000. The Khulna District Board, however, abolished the dispensaries at headquarters and utilized the services of the veterinary assistants merely in combating cattle epidemics in the rural areas. The Hooghly District Board abolished the post of one veterinary assistant at Sheoraphuli—a retrograde step which Government most strongly deprecates.

Civil Works.

182. The total expenditure under this head, which includes the sums spent on water-supply and drainage rose from Rs. 60·4 lakhs to Rs. 62·7 lakhs. The expenditure on Buildings and Establishment fell by Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 9,000, respectively, while there was an increase under Communications (Rs. 25,000) and Water-supply (Rs. 3,60,000). The increase under these two heads was, however, confined chiefly to “Original works” and amounted to Rs. 1,32,000 in the case of Communications and Rs. 3,50,000 in the case of Water-supply; while the charges for the maintenance of Water-supply rose by Rs. 10,000 only and those for Communications showed a decrease of over one lakh. This tendency to incur new liabilities without making adequate provision for old standing and essential obligations, specially those relating to communications, was noticed in the last year's report and it is regrettable that no improvement is noticeable in this direction. The prosperity of the people depends to a great extent on trade facilities arising from good roads and a District Board will fail in one of its primary duties if roads are not properly looked after. Some District Boards have complained that considerable damage is done to their roads by a steady increase in motor traffic. Although they have to pay all the expenses for the upkeep of the roads they get nothing in the shape of an income from license fees. A Bill is now under the consideration of Government for authorising local bodies to levy a reasonable fee on motor traffic which is responsible for damage to roads maintained by these bodies.

As in the preceding years, the percentage of lapses over the budget allotment was the highest in the 24-Parganas district, although it declined from 30·5 in the preceding year to 24·0 in the year under review. No part of the allotment lapsed in Malda. The percentage decreased to a considerable extent in Midnapore and Bogra, while in Birbhum and Rajshahi it increased from 8·0 and ·7 to 19·8 and 10·2, respectively. In Nadia and Tippera where there were no lapses in 1923-24, the allotments lapsed by 13·6 and 6·02 per cent. respectively.

183. The expenditure under this head rose from Rs. 6·3 lakhs to Rs. 9·9 lakhs. In view of the exceptional drought which prevailed in the year under review, Government desired that the major portion, if not the whole, of the augmentation grant annually received by District Boards from Government, should be spent on rural water-supply. That the District Boards generally accepted this suggestion is evidenced by the fact that increased expenditure was incurred by most of them in this respect, specially by the District Boards of Burdwan, Midnapore, Birbhum, Bankura, Nadia, Pabna, Dacca, Howrah, Mymensingh and the 24-Parganas which spent larger sums on water-supply than the amount of their augmentation grants. The District Board of *Burdwan* took up the sinking of 216 masonry wells, out of which 126 were completed at a total cost of Rs. 95,338, while Rs. 22,543 was spent by the Asansol Local Board. A sum of Rs. 13,475 was also spent on repairing and clearing wells, besides a further sum of Rs. 2,251 handed over to Union Boards for repairing wells in their respective jurisdictions. All the Local Boards in *Midnapore* evinced great activity and energy in the execution of projects of water-supply and spent larger amounts than in the preceding year. In *Birbhum* 18 tanks were re-excavated, 7 wells were completed and 97 wells were in progress, for which a sum of Rs. 10,417 was disbursed during the year. The District Board also spent small sums on iron and bamboo tube wells and granted loans to Union Boards and private individuals for the re-excavation of tanks. In the *24-Parganas* district 319 tube wells, 20 ring and 7 masonry wells were sunk during the year. The excavation of 8 tanks was completed and 6 tanks were re-excavated and the District Board agreed to grant loans to private individuals for the re-excavation of tanks. In *Nadia* 47 wells were constructed under the direct supervision of the District Engineer, out of which 16 wells were completed. Sixty-one wells were sunk by the several Local Boards under the new contributory scheme under which the villagers constructed wells themselves and the Local Boards paid contributions to them. Rs. 29,253 were spent in Jessore on constructing 11 new tanks, 46 new masonry wells and 85 ring wells and in Khulna 13 tanks, 41 wells and 121 ring wells were completed, besides 19 tanks and 2 masonry wells taken up but not completed during the year. The increase in the expenditure on water-supply was noticeable in *Jalpaiguri* and *Rangpur* and was mainly due to the sinking of a larger number of cement concrete ring wells throughout the districts. The *Bogra* District Board sank 37 tube wells and the Local Boards sank 177 ring-wells in different parts of the district. In *Dacca* the construction of 64 wells and 11 tanks was completed and 107 wells and 8 tanks were undertaken. The

Mymensingh District Board took up 254 masonry wells, 3 tiled wells, 24 tube wells, 93 ferro-concrete wells, 4 ring wells and 12 tanks and advanced a sum of Rs. 15,000 as loans to private individuals for excavation and re-excavation of tanks. The *Hooghly* District Board spent Rs. 17,148 in the sinking of tube wells, masonry wells and ring wells and placed contracts for the sinking of 100 tube wells. In *Howrah* a sum of Rs. 26,204 was spent on 26 deep-seated tube wells, 1 ring well and 10 tanks during the year, of which nearly Rs. 5,000 was paid to Union Boards for re-excavation of tanks. This Board as well as the District Boards of *Jalpaiguri* and the 24-Parganas, respectively spent 64.2, 51.6, and 44.3 per cent. of their Public Works Cess receipts on water-supply. The *Howrah* District Board, however, spent beyond its means and its expenditure is said to have been dictated more by a desire for popularity than a just appreciation of the various needs of the district and of the best ways of supplying them. On the other hand, the expenditure declined considerably in the *Bakarganj* and *Malda* districts where the percentages fell from 24.2 and 39.0 in the previous year to 10.8 and 22.0, respectively. The decrease in the former is attributed to the failure of the Land Acquisition Department to give possession of the sites of tanks, while that in the latter has not been explained. There is a scarcity of good drinking water in all the districts in the *Chittagong* Division, specially in *Noakhali* where no appreciable improvement can be effected owing to lack of funds and the unwillingness of the people to part with proprietary and fishing rights in tanks.

Tube wells continued to receive the special attention of several District Boards which took steps to popularise them. Owing to the increase in the number of tube wells in *Howrah* and the 24-Parganas the District Boards appointed expert wholetime officers to look after the wells in those districts.

Closing Balance.

184. The year closed with an actual balance of Rs. 22.5 lakhs against Rs. 23.5 lakhs of the previous year. There were heavy balances in the *Burdwan* (Rs. 3,33,057), 24-Parganas (Rs. 2,90,573), *Mymensingh* (Rs. 2,27,323) and *Midnapore* (Rs. 2,09,317) districts. The large balance in *Burdwan* is attributed mainly to the excess income under "Cess receipts" which could not be budgeted for expenditure during the year. The heavy balance at the credit of the 24-Parganas District Board represented the unspent balance under "Education", "Medical" and "Civil works" and included a sum of Rs. 64,000 on account of the non-payment of the interest of the *Magrahat* drainage loan. The balances left by the *Mymensingh* and *Midnapore* districts have not been explained.

Marine Department.

(1) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, for 1924-25.

(2) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, for 1924-25.

(3) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge for 1924-25.

(4) Annual Report of the Port Officers, Calcutta and Chittagong, for 1924-25.

(5) Annual Report of the Shipping Officers, Bengal, for 1924-25.

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

185. At the close of the year there were 63 Pilots against the sanctioned strength of 74. Six Leadsman Apprentices were appointed and two senior Pilots retired during the year. **Bengal Pilot Service.**

186. The number of vessels piloted was 2,407, of which number 1,195 with a gross tonnage of 6,336,841 were piloted inwards and 1,212 with a gross tonnage of 6,439,956 were piloted out. The corresponding figures in the previous year were 1,169 vessels inwards, with a gross tonnage of 6,019,104 and 1,154 vessels outwards with a gross tonnage of 5,948,367. Five vessels were detained at the Sandheads; four on account of bad weather and one for the want of a pilot. **Vessels piloted.**

187. The pilotage receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 13,91,601 against (final figures) Rs. 11,83,294 and Rs. 11,82,310 for the two preceding years. **Pilotage Receipts.**

188. The number of preliminary enquiries held during the year was 58, including cases of inland vessels, against 44 in the previous year. Five cases of inland vessels were referred to Special Courts of Enquiry and one case of a sea-going vessel to a Departmental Court. **Casualties to vessels.**

189. The total number of vessels (apart from Government vessels) surveyed during the year was 438, and the fees realised for the purpose amounted to Rs. 39,729. **Survey.**

SHIPPING OFFICES, CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

190. The receipts of the Shipping Offices amounted to Rs. 1,32,357 and the expenditure to Rs. 81,406 against Rs. 1,22,732 and Rs. 83,241, respectively, in the previous year. **Finance.**

191. The numbers of seamen of all nationalities shipped and discharged by the Shipping Offices during the year were 50,697 and 44,318, respectively, against the totals of 49,801 and 42,836, respectively, in the preceding year. **Seamen shipped and discharged.**

192. The new system of recruitment of seamen by the Seamen's Recruitment Bureau has not been brought into force yet. **Seamen's Recruitment Bureau.**

Details of the method of working the Bureau and the recruitment of seamen are still being considered by Government.

THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Shipping.

193. The total tonnage entering the port was 6,379,291 tons or an increase of 6 per cent. over that of the previous year. The total tonnage leaving the port was 6,441,678 tons or an increase of 8 per cent. over that of the previous year. The *Belgenland*, a vessel of over 27,000 tons gross and believed to be the largest vessel which has ever entered the Hooghly, arrived at and left Diamond Harbour during February 1925.

Finance.

194. The total quantity of traffic handled at the berths exceeded that for the previous year by more than 10 per cent. while the figure for general exports constitutes a record in the history of the port; but owing to comparatively small receipts from storage charges and to the fact that there were increases in working expenditure under several heads, the financial results of the year showed a deficit of Rs. 2,71 lakhs.

Revenue.

195. The revenue receipts of the Trust amounted to Rs. 278.23 lakhs and the expenditure to Rs. 280.94 lakhs. Rs. 2.25 lakhs of this deficit was met from the opening balance leaving a net deficit of Rs. 46,000.

Capital.

196. There was an opening balance on Capital Account of Rs. 82.60 lakhs which, with the proceeds of a sterling loan issued in London in June, 1924, and a small contribution from revenue towards the depreciation of the "Port Block", made a total sum available on Capital Account of Rs. 204.73 lakhs. The total expenditure on capital works amounted to Rs. 147.98 lakhs and a further sum of Rs. 4.8 lakhs was expended in part payment of the balance due on account of the purchase price of the R.I.M. Dockyard, making, after some minor adjustments, a total net disbursement of Rs. 155.48 lakhs and leaving a balance of Rs. 49.25 lakhs at the end of the year. Out of the expenditure of Rs. 147.98 lakhs a sum of Rs. 105.71 lakhs was expended on the King George's Dock Scheme. The total expenditure on this scheme up to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 376.19 lakhs against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 763.95 lakhs.

**Administration of
the Port.**

197. During the year proposals were put forward by the Government of India for the transfer of the control of the Port of Calcutta (and other major ports) from the Local Government to the Government of India. The question is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

At the instance of the Government of India a Standing Committee with advisory functions, called the Advisory Pilot Committee, was appointed to advise Government on all matters affecting the general administration of the Bengal Pilot Service and to examine the annual budget and the pilotage accounts of the port of Calcutta. The advice of the Committee on matters placed before it was most valuable.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

198. The year under review opened with a debit balance on Revenue Account of Rs. 1,34,504. The income and expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 4,78,936 and Rs. 3,58,908, respectively, as compared with Rs. 4,59,188 and Rs. 3,40,546, respectively, in the previous year. The total indebtedness of the bridge to the Port Commissioners on the 31st March, 1925, amounted to Rs. 1,61,888.

REPAIR YARD FOR GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES.

199. The inauguration of the scheme for the pooling of Government launches at different centres in the Presidency at the beginning of the year 1924-25 rendered it necessary that a well-equipped repair yard for Government launches should be provided. A suitable site, which will cost Rs. 1,60,000 at Narayanganj on the bank of the Lakhya river, with buildings standing thereon, was selected. It is to be developed and it is proposed to transfer the present River Police repair yard to the new site and to start the new yard early next financial year.

PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

200. The number of vessels that arrived at the Port during the year was 801 of which 225 were ocean-going steamers, 569 inland vessels and 7 sailing vessels. The corresponding figures for outgoing vessels were 799, 222, 569 and 8. The gross tonnage was 821,036 inwards and 813,444 outwards. In the previous year the number of arrivals was 825 with a gross tonnage of 832,352 and the number of departures 824 with a gross tonnage of 834,825. There was one shipping accident, a collision.

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

201. The ordinary receipts during 1924-25 amounted to Rs. 5,54,316 as against Rs. 5,21,446 in 1923-24, the increase being mainly on account of river dues. The ordinary expenditure of the Trust was Rs. 4,74,595 compared with Rs. 3,79,301 in the

Finance.

previous year. The increase in expenditure was mainly due to the construction of quarters for the Harbour Masters and the purchase of stores. There was no capital income or expenditure during the year. The value of the Port Commissioners' properties was estimated on the 31st March, 1925, to be Rs. 53,95,648 while the liabilities, excluding loans taken from Government, amounted to Rs. 1,13,203. The outstanding balance of the Government loan at the end of the year was Rs. 3,88,822.

**Development of
the Port.**

202. It is proposed to obtain a loan of Rs. 50 lakhs from the Government of India for the development of the Port, subject to the approval of the Council to advance to the Port Commissioners Rs. 15 lakhs as the first instalment to be paid on the 1st March, 1926.

SHIPPING OFFICE, CHITTAGONG.

Finance.

203. The revenue of the Shipping Office during the year was Rs. 746 and the amount expended was Rs. 1,136 against Rs. 621 and Rs. 1,186, respectively, in the previous year.

**Seamen shipped
and discharged.**

204. The number of seamen of all nationalities shipped and discharged during the year was 214 and 503, respectively, against 228 and 449 for the previous year.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.**Agriculture.**

[Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal,
for the year 1924-25.]

205. Mr. R. S. Finlow was in charge of the Department Administration throughout the year.

206. Definite progress was made in the matter of agricultural education. The essence of the scheme for the Agricultural Institute at Dacca, which it is hoped will be undertaken in the near future, is that the course to be provided shall, as far as possible, be entirely practical, and that it shall be super-imposed on a training in the necessary pure sciences previously acquired at a University. It is designed not only to afford practical training in the essentials of agriculture to young men wishing to farm for themselves, but also to provide courses for members of the Department who require extra training in any particular branch.

**Agricultural
education.**

The question of introducing agricultural education into schools received further consideration during the year, and a committee was appointed to investigate the system in vogue in the Punjab. The report of the committee is being considered and it is proposed to give effect to the scheme as early as possible.

207. In connection with jute, work progressed along the lines of previous years. A new race, D. 27, is at least the equal in yield of the previous departmental selections, and the quality appears to be superior. A joint investigation into the quality of jute fibre was made in collaboration with the Indian Jute Mills' Association and the Dundee Chamber of Commerce, with a view to determine whether variety or environment is the main factor affecting quality of fibre. The prevalent opinion of the trade is that quality depends on environment. Results, however, indicate that variety is also a factor. The area under departmentally improved jute in the Province is now estimated to be about 10 per cent. of the total jute area, which amounts to about 250,000 acres. These improved jute races are capable of yielding on an average about 3 maunds an acre more fibre than ordinary seed which is equivalent to an increased outturn of approximately 750,000 maunds per annum. Investigations into sunn hemp, rhea and sisal were also undertaken.

**Research and
experiment—
(a) Fibres.**

208. The departmental selections of paddy are spreading in the localities suited to them, and attention was devoted to the selection of races suitable for the drier tracts of western Bengal, and of

(b) Botany.

procuring improved strains of the *balam* rice of Barisal district. A strain known as *dudshar* made rapid progress in Malda district. It is almost the equal of *Indrasail* in yield and ripens at least a week earlier. Other races, both pure-line selections and hybrids, suitable for special local conditions, were under investigation. Experiments were in progress into the possibility of producing early maturing strains of cotton of superior quality suitable for the dry districts of West Bengal. Work was also carried out on the improvement by selection of the "Comillas" of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

(c) Chemistry.

209. Yellow *tanna* sugarcane continued to spread rapidly, and some of the new canes, particularly C. O. 213, were doing well at Dacca. Work was also in progress on the refinement of date *gur* and the production of white sugar therefrom. The demand for departmental tobacco seed exceeded the supply. *Motihar* continued to be the favourite local variety. *Sumatra* yielded the best wrapper leaf for cigars, while *Manilla II* and *Pensylvania* showed promise as fillers. An expert cigar-roller was engaged from Madras and did good work.

Cattle breeding.

210. The standard of rejection for cows in the Rangpur cattle herd was raised to 2,500 lb. per lactation, and it is hoped to raise it still further to 3,000 lb. The main object of the Rangpur Cattle Farm is the production of a dual purpose animal, the females being average milkers of about 5 sners per day, and the males having good stature for draft purposes.

Agricultural irrigation.

211. A proposal for the appointment of an agricultural engineer is under consideration. An irrigation officer was appointed to the district of Birbhum, following the example of Bankura, and the case of Hooghly is also being taken up.

New farms.

212. New district farms were established at Faridpur and Berhampore. The construction of buildings for the Mainaguri (Jalpaiguri) and Dinajpur farms is expected to be complete at the end of the current year.

Propaganda.

213. During the past year the final orders of Government regarding retrenchment took effect, as a result of which the number of District Agricultural Officers was reduced to 31, while the demonstrator cadre was reduced to 80.

During the year a portion of each farm was run on an economic basis as a commercial proposition, and the results show that a profit can be made out of certain crops, of which transplanted paddy is one of the best.

The Khas Mahal Farm at Kishoreganj, where cultivation is based on a modification of the *borga* system, continued to do good work, and to serve as a valuable demonstration centre. In the

year under review the farm practically covered expenses, including the salaries of the Superintendent and two Demonstrators. A similar area of *khas mahal* was taken over at Jamalpur, and next year a third area at Barisal will come under departmental control.

Many private farms have also been established in recent years, especially in Northern Bengal. The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Northern Circle, gives a list of over 40 in his circle.

214. Only a few agricultural associations appear to be doing good work, but in the Presidency Division a certain amount of progress is being made on the initiative of the Divisional Agricultural Association, which meets under the presidency of the Commissioner of the Division. The Deputy Director of Agriculture reports progress in the 24-Parganas, Jessore and Murshidabad, where the Subdivisional Associations of Lalbagh and Jangipur are both active. In the Burdwan Division, the Birbhum District Agricultural Association under Rai A. C. Banerjee Bahadur is engaged in developing irrigation. The Burdwan District Agricultural Association under the Collector is an active body. It runs a journal and is interested in the introduction of betel-vine cultivation. Small village associations have been started in Dacca district, but it is too early yet to estimate their value. The co-operative associations in Pabna have not done well hitherto, while good work is being done at Rangpur, Bogra, Dinajpur and Malda.

Agricultural
Associations.

215. The Bengal Silk Committee was reconstituted on more popular lines during the year by including persons interested in silk-rearing and in the silk trade. The number of nurseries remained the same, *viz.*, 11, and their main function is still the rearing of disease-free stock. The nurseries produced 17,380 *kahans* of cocoons, the receipts amounting to Rs. 75,275. Better manuring resulted in an increased yield of leaf and reduced the necessity of purchasing leaf from outside. Experiments with E. C. as an antiseptic produced very satisfactory results. The price is only one third of that of Formalin.

Sericulture.

Propagation of disease-free seed through selected rearers has continued, under departmental supervision. Ten new seed farms were started during the year, making a total of 52 in all. As a result of the work of the Third Superintendent of Sericulture, Miss Cleghorn, at Alipore and at Behala, a gratifying response has been made by *bhadralok*, and a number have taken up silk-rearing. The schools at Rajshahi and Berhampore continue to educate sons of rearers in improved sericultural methods. At Rajshahi, 5 passed the final examination, while 9 passed students were granted rewards totalling Rs. 1,500.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1924-25; Crop Forecasts of Bengal for the year 1924-25; Agricultural Statistics of India Volume I.]

Character of the season.

216. The weather at the beginning of the season was hot and dry and field operations were restricted till the middle of April, when good rain fell over the greater part of the Province especially in North and East Bengal. Good weather continued till the early part of May, and agricultural operations were correspondingly facilitated; but subsequent unprecedentedly high temperatures retarded the growth of standing crops, and, especially in the high-land tracts, delayed the sowing of seed-beds for transplanted paddy. Conditions and prospects improved with the break of the monsoon in the middle of June, except in parts of West Bengal, where there was insufficient rain at first. During the months of July and August transplantation of winter paddy progressed favourably although rain was still deficient in West Bengal. Exceptionally high river levels in July and August caused serious damage to autumn paddy, and some damage to winter paddy in the low-land tracts of Eastern Bengal. The districts, which suffered most were Faridpur, Tippera, Bakarganj, Dacca and Noakhali. The floods necessitated premature harvesting of the jute crop in certain affected areas. Good rainfall in the first part of September favoured further transplantation of winter rice, and benefited the crop generally. Dry weather in October improved the condition of the crops in Eastern Bengal, but adversely affected the flowering of late transplanted paddy. Untimely heavy rainfall in November interfered with the germination and growth of spring crops, but dry weather during December proved beneficial. Subsequent winter rains accompanied by hail damaged mature crops to some extent. On the whole, the season was favourable for North Bengal, and unfavourable for West and East Bengal.

Bhadoi crops (excepting jute).

217. The weather was not favourable in the early stages owing to prolonged drought. During the monsoon the conditions generally improved except in parts of West Bengal. During the period July to September excessive rain and high rivers caused damage to mature *aus* paddy in the low-land tracts of East Bengal. The crop was satisfactory in North Bengal, while a fair crop only was obtained elsewhere. The outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops of the Province was estimated at 73 per cent. of the normal against 77 per cent. last year.

Jute.

218. The season was not uniformly favourable. In South East Bengal early drought was followed by excessive rain and an early rise of the rivers necessitated premature cutting of some low-land jute, the tracts chiefly affected being parts of Tippera, Dacca and

Faridpur. In other portions of South-East Bengal, however, the crop approximated to normal, this being particularly true of Western Mymensingh and *bogi* tracts in the Dacca district. In North Bengal and in the Presidency Division, conditions were uniformly favourable throughout, and in some portions of the former tract, notably Rangpur district, there was exceptionally good jute. In Burdwan Division the crop was fair. There was ample steeping water from the commencement of the season and reports indicated a larger proportion of clean jute in consequence. The area and outturn of jute, exclusive of Cooch Behar State, were respectively returned at 2,357,500 acres and 7,165,658 bales of 400 lb. each.

219. This year the work of preparing the land was favoured by good weather but subsequent high temperatures adversely affected broadcast paddy and delayed the sowing of seed-beds for transplantation. During the months of July and August a strong monsoon prevailed in East and North Bengal, but in West Bengal it was less active. In the low-land tracts of East Bengal excessive rain caused serious damage to deep-water *aus* paddy and some damage also to deep-water *aman* paddy. Good rainfall, especially in the first part of September, facilitated the transplantation of winter rice and benefited the crop generally. On the whole a normal crop was reaped in North Bengal districts, Burdwan and Khulna and a fairly satisfactory one elsewhere. The provincial outturn worked out at 86 per cent. of the normal as against 85 per cent. last year.

Winter rice.

220. The weather was generally unfavourable at the outset owing to drought and high temperature, especially in the deltaic tracts. With the break of the monsoon in June, the condition and prospects of the crop improved, but excessive rain and floods caused damage in some East Bengal districts. On the whole a fair crop was reaped, the outturn being 76 per cent. of the normal against 80 per cent. last year.

Sugarcane.

221. The rainfall in September was in excess of the normal while in October it was below average. Tillage and sowing, although commenced at the usual time, ended comparatively late. In November heavy rainfall interfered with germination and growth, while dry weather in December proved beneficial. Showers in the early part of the new year damaged mature crops to some extent. On the other hand the weather was favourable for the transplantation and growth of summer rice and other late-sown crops. On the whole the *rabi* season was a fair one. The outturn of the different *rabi* crops worked out at 77 per cent. of the normal as against 74 per cent. last year.

Rabi crops.

222. The weather was not generally favourable in the early stages, owing to unequal distribution of rainfall. Subsequent

Cotton.

conditions proved satisfactory and a good outturn was reaped except in some of the less important districts, where excessive rain during the flowering time caused some damage. The total outturn of cotton, both late and early, exclusive of Tripura State, was estimated at 21,440 bales this year as against 18,960 bales last year.

223. The total cropped area was estimated to be 27,747,200 acres as compared with 26,925,600 acres last year.

The figures for the principal crops are shown in the following table:—

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area in acres cultivated during 1923-24.	Area in acres cultivated during 1924-25.
Rice	22,704,200	20,346,300	20,868,700
Other food grains including pulses and <i>marua</i> .	1,821,500	1,391,900	1,335,000
Jute	2,310,300	1,986,100	2,357,600
Oilseeds	1,484,700	1,040,000	1,043,400
Tobacco	242,000	287,700	280,300
Sugarcane	206,700	207,900	206,200

Prices.

224. To a slight extent prices were affected by flood damage to *bhil aus* rice in East Bengal and to the paddy crop in South India. The main cause of high prices, however, was a world shortage of food grains resulting in largely increased exports of rice from Bengal. The price of jute was also high throughout the season until it reached the present record figure.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for 1924-25.]

Administration.

225. Mr. M. Thorp, I.C.S., acted as Registrar till the 19th November 1924, when Mr. J. M. Mitra on return from his deputation to England in connection with the British Empire Exhibition resumed charge of the Department.

Development.

226. There was a further expansion of the co-operative movement during the year. The number of societies of all classes rose from 9,342 to 11,081, an increase of 18·3 per cent. as against 19·4 per cent. in the preceding year, and 17·1 per cent. in the year 1922-23. Membership rose from 340,159 to 386,050, an increase of

13·4 per cent. as against an increase of 16·1 per cent. in the preceding year and 12·6 per cent. in 1922-23. The accession to membership was not in proportion to the increase in the number of societies as new societies generally begin with a limited number of members. The total working capital rose from Rs. 5,07,66,290 to Rs. 6,18,38,550, an increase of 21·8 per cent. as against an increase of 17·7 in the preceding year. Excluding the items which are counted more than once as a result of the separate treatment of the funds of the Provincial Bank, Central Banks, and primary societies, the actual cash employed in the movement amounted to Rs. 3·98 crores against Rs. 3·32 crores in the preceding year. Out of the sum of Rs. 3·98 crores which is the working capital of primary societies the amount received from outside sources was Rs. 2·17 crores against Rs. 1·76 crores in the preceding year; while the Co-operative Societies and their members provided the sum of Rs. 1·81 crores against Rs. 1·56 crores in the preceding year.

227. The membership of the Provincial Bank increased from 109 to 122, share capital from Rs. 4·57 lakhs to Rs. 5·48 lakhs, reserve and other funds from Rs. 1·03 lakhs to Rs. 1·13 lakhs and working capital from Rs. 36·77 lakhs to Rs. 61·20 lakhs. On the 30th June 1925, the bank had Rs. 25·69 lakhs in Government paper against which it had drawn Rs. 4·29 lakhs. Its total liquid resources thus amounted to Rs. 21·40 lakhs; while the deposits in it maturing within the following 12 months amounted to Rs. 7·85 lakhs only and current deposits to Rs. 9·55 lakhs or Rs. 17·40 lakhs in all. The loans issued during the year amounted to Rs. 27·97 lakhs against Rs. 24·15 lakhs in the preceding year. It received in interest Rs. 4·04 lakhs against Rs. 2·71 lakhs in the preceding year, and paid out Rs. 2·79 lakhs against Rs. 2·61 lakhs. The bank earned a profit of Rs. 69,646 against Rs. 42,918 in the preceding year.

**The Bengal
Provincial
Co-operative
Bank, Ltd.**

228. The number of Central Banks rose from 88 to 91, the additions during the year being at Gosaba in the district of 24-Parganas, Hatiya in Noakhali and Chanchal in Malda. The last mentioned bank did not commence work during the year. The total number of societies affiliated to Central Banks rose from 8,289 to 9,746, and the working capital from Rs. 1,75,06,244 to Rs. 2,05,84,034. Deposits from non-members amounted to Rs. 1,26,31,462 against Rs. 1,10,21,456 in the preceding year. The total repayments to Central Banks amounted Rs. 85·47 lakhs against Rs. 53·31 lakhs in the preceding year. The proportion of collection to the total loans outstanding at the beginning of the year was 56·2 per cent. against 41·7 per cent. in the preceding year.

Central Banks.

On the 30th June 1925, the Central Banks had Rs. 30·42 lakhs in fluid resources against Rs. 37·63 lakhs of deposits maturing

within the following 12 months, and Rs. 14·21 lakhs in current or savings bank deposits or Rs. 51·84 lakhs in all. The proportion of fluid resources was thus 58·6 per cent. and was ample.

**Agricultural
credit.**

229. There was slight decrease in the proportion of agricultural credit to the total number of societies which was 88 per cent. in the year under report, against 90 per cent. in the preceding year. The number of these societies rose from 8,368 to 9,835, the total number of members from 216,190 to 246,043 and the total working capital from Rs. 1,77,89,251 to Rs. 2,13,81,661. Out of the total working capital, share capital has increased from Rs. 10·27 lakhs to Rs. 14·71 lakhs, deposits from members from Rs. 7·83 lakhs to Rs. 9·33 lakhs, and reserve funds from Rs. 25·70 lakhs to Rs. 30·71 lakhs. The total of the funds owned by societies amounted to Rs. 54·77 lakhs against Rs. 43·81 lakhs in the preceding year and Rs. 35·65 lakhs in 1922-23, Rs. 29·39 lakhs in 1921-22 and Rs. 25·01 lakhs in 1920-21. Thus in five years' time the societies owned capital increased by about 72 per cent. and it now forms 25·6 per cent. which is very gratifying.

The collections during the year amounted to Rs. 62·71 lakhs or 41·8 per cent. of the amount due at the beginning of the year as against Rs. 38·51 lakhs or 31·4 per cent. in the preceding year. The collections were thus better by about Rs. 24 lakhs than in the preceding year, and were the best in the quinquennium. The overdues declined from Rs. 51·78 lakhs or 34·4 per cent. of the amount outstanding at the end of the preceding year to Rs. 49·26 lakhs or 28·3 per cent. at the end of the year under report.

**Non-agricultural
credit.**

230. The total number of these societies increased from 223 with a membership of 72,553 to 257 with a membership of 82,078. These societies are either urban banks of which the membership is drawn from among those residing within the limits of a given town, or are employees' societies composed of salary-earners in Government or Municipal offices or in commercial firms or industrial concerns, or are communal societies which restrict their membership to persons of a particular community, caste or class. They are mostly on a limited liability basis. The share capital of these societies rose from Rs. 26·5 lakhs to Rs. 29·9 lakhs, members' deposits from 31·21 lakhs to Rs. 37·09 lakhs, non-members' deposits from Rs. 32·57 lakhs to Rs. 41·59 lakhs. The total of reserve fund rose from Rs. 5·18 lakhs to Rs. 6·20 lakhs, and the total working capital from Rs. 97·69 lakhs to Rs. 117·47 lakhs. The societies provide 62·3 per cent. of their working capital, the proportion being about the same as in the preceding year. The profit earned rose from Rs. 3·31 lakhs to Rs. 4·40 lakhs. These societies enjoy the facilities of short-term loans and quick turn-over. These features contribute to the financial stability of this section of the movement.

231. There was further progress in the formation of societies other than credit under the following main heads:—

Societies other
than credit.
(i) Purchase and
sale societies.

The number of sale and supply societies increased from 22 to 33 and their membership from 4,411 to 5,337, but their working capital fell from Rs. 1,56,161 to Rs. 94,419. This is due to a reduction in working capital of the Sundarban Supply and Sale Society. This society had a much quicker turn-over of its capital with the result that it earned a larger profit and was able to pay back its deposits. The total profits earned by all these sale and supply societies taken together rose from Rs. 3,620 to Rs. 17,761, the profits of the Sundarban's society alone rising from Rs. 2,189 to Rs. 9,987. The Sarisabari Supply and Sale Society in Mymensingh was registered during the year after working for a time on an unregistered basis. It was started with the object of helping the members of existing societies in securing a fair market for their jute by selling direct to the mills. In practice, however, it has been working by coming into direct touch with certain big firms in Calcutta through their local agencies. In this way it has been able to secure better terms for the growers. A newly registered society at Matlab in Tippera earned a profit of Rs. 213 by selling paddy and rice on a small scale during the last few months. The Gosaba Paddy Sale Society in the 24-Parganas achieved still greater success during the year and earned a profit of Rs. 5,300. The society has been able to obtain better prices for the growers. To enable these societies to effect an advantageous disposal of their stock it is proposed to establish a central godown in Calcutta.

In the Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society, the total membership increased from 3,617 to 3,681, share capital from Rs. 40,670 to Rs. 41,310, deposits from non-members from Rs. 1,90,170 to Rs. 2,68,629 and those from members from Rs. 43,699 to Rs. 63,216. The total working capital decreased from Rs. 7,47,800 to Rs. 5,75,635 as the loan which had been taken from the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank was repaid. The sale proceeds amounted to Rs. 10,77,921 against Rs. 10,01,645 in the preceding year. It earned a profit of Rs. 2,28,512 and continued to maintain a number of charitable institutions as before out of its profits.

The stores society movement made little progress during the year. The number of the societies rose from 69 to 71, but the membership decreased from 12,416 to 9,959 and there was a further decline in the sales from Rs. 6.69 lakhs to Rs. 4.73 lakhs. The total loss incurred was, however, reduced from Rs. 45,423 to Rs. 33,009.

232. In spite of the set-back caused by a breach in the Amjore weir and the delay in the completion of the Salbund weir there was

(ii) Irrigation
societies.

a great accession to the number of irrigation societies during the year. The total number of these societies rose from 173 with a membership of 7,376 and a working capital of Rs. 1,29,598 to 268 with a membership of 10,368 and a working capital of Rs. 1,90,124. Of these societies, 142 are in Bankura, 116 in Birbhum, 3 in Burdwan, 4 in Hooghly, and one each in Faridpur, Bogra and Midnapore. The Khelar Irrigation Society, which is the pioneer society in the province, continued to do most useful work. It irrigates about 800 bighas of paddy land, though the bundh in use is only a *kutchu* one. Out of 142 societies in Bankura 113 are in the Sadar subdivision with a total irrigable area of 30,507 bighas. Out of these 113 societies, 70 have completed, 6 have nearly completed while 22 have partially executed their work. In Vishnupur subdivision there were 29 societies with an irrigable area of 16,140 bighas, work was completed in the case of 8 societies, and was in progress in respect of 18 societies. Three societies did not start work. In Birbhum district there were 116 societies with an irrigable area of 15,502 bighas. Of these 116 societies, 110 are in connection with tank schemes. Re-excavation work in respect of 53 societies was completed during the year. The other societies could not start or complete their work as the rains set in early and also because of the dearth of local labour.

(iii) Agricultural associations.

233. The number of agricultural associations increased from 16 with a membership of 291 and a total working capital of Rs. 5,200 to 20 with a membership of 325 and a total working capital of Rs. 8,381. These societies worked at a loss of Rs. 591 against Rs. 597 in the preceding year. The Modern Agricultural Association of which so much was expected by its promoters has not yet been able to start work.

(iv) Production and sale societies—

(a) Milk societies.

234. The progress of these societies continued unabated during the year. The number increased from 54 to 63, membership from 2,155 to 2,909, working capital from Rs. 12,810 to Rs. 26,557 and owned capital from Rs. 16,294 to Rs. 24,545. The societies earned a profit of Rs. 20,150 against Rs. 11,054 in the preceding year. They are all affiliated to the Milk Union in Calcutta. The total yield rose during the quinquennium from 20 seers a day to 83 maunds a day and has since risen to 100 maunds. The supply has acquired a high reputation for quality and is almost wholly consumed in Calcutta where it is readily sold.

(b) Weavers' societies.

235. The expansion of this section was maintained during the year. The number of weavers' societies rose from 174 to 200, membership from 2,701 to 3,334, and working capital from Rs. 1,33,577 to Rs. 1,78,596. The Bankura societies numbering 54 form the most important group in this section. The Bagerhat Weaving Union in Khulna gained in membership from 158 to 269

and increased its working capital from Rs. 22,602 to Rs. 31,456. It has been able to find a ready market for its manufactures. There are now 25 hand-looms and 4 power-looms in its factory, while 8 more power-looms are being installed. Thirty-four societies in Rajshahi and Bogra which are now affiliated to the Naogaon Central Industrial Society are thriving well.

236. The number of these societies increased from 59 to 62, the membership from 1,386 to 2,046 and the total working capital from Rs. 60,448 to Rs. 63,250. The majority of these societies continue to be on a credit basis. Two societies in Nadia and one in Midnapore have been able to obtain fishery leases. The Natuapara Dhibar Society in Pabna continued to progress. The Nayanadi Rath Khola Matsajibi Society in Dacca Division retained its position during the year. It made a profit of Rs. 2,598 after recouping the heavy loss incurred in the preceding years.

(c) **Fishermen's societies.**

237. The eight conch-shell workers' societies in the town of Dacca had a membership of 265 and a paid-up share capital of Rs. 95,829. They purchased from the Dacca Industrial Union shells to the value of Rs. 92,325 which were distributed to the members on the basis of their share capital. The Union was able with the help of this Department to obtain renewal of its contract with the Government of Madras in regard to Ramnud and Tuticorin shell catches.

(d) **The Dacca conch-shell societies.**

238. The Madhyamgram Chican Workers' Society which is the only society of its kind in the province continues to make progress. It is now proposed to open a stall in Calcutta for the sale of its products.

(e) **Chicon Workers' society.**

239. A braziers' society started work at Brahmanbaria during the year and earned a profit of Rs. 526. The society obtains its supply of brass direct from Calcutta and sells the finished products of the members.

(f) **Braziers' society.**

240. The total number of registered anti-malarial societies affiliated to the Central Anti-malarial Society rose from 33 to 98 and their membership from 858 to 2,251. Of these, 33 societies are in the 24 Parganas. These societies serve a very useful purpose in that they organise the people for the improvement of rural sanitation.

(v) **Miscellaneous societies—
(a) Anti-malarial societies.**

241. The number of these societies remained at two as in the preceding year. The Tamruk Agricultural and Zamindari Society has let out its land in Balasore to the members for cultivation. The Bengal Young Men's Zamindari Society, which is the more important of the two, increased its profit from Rs. 4,188 to Rs. 5,555, and has built up a reserve fund of Rs. 20,836. Both the societies are in need of land for the extension of their activities.

(b) **Zamindari societies.**

Periodicals.

242. *The Bengal Co-operative Journal*, a quarterly in English and the *Bhandar*, a monthly in Bengali, continued to be regularly issued by the Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society.

Information
Bureau.

243. The Information Bureau attached to the Department arranged for the display of the products of industrial societies at most of the important exhibitions held at different centres in the Province and assisted the industrial societies with information as to market rates in Calcutta and also helped them in the disposal of their products.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other Gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1924-25.]

The Royal
Botanic Garden.

244. The year was not altogether favourable for botanical operations. A period of drought during the first few months added to the difficulties of work in the garden. The months of April and May were exceedingly hot and dry for a garden containing so many exotic species unaccustomed to extremes of climate. The prevention of mortality in such circumstances was impossible. Every effort was, however, made to bring round sickly plants and to replace those that had failed altogether to stand adverse conditions. During the year the annuals appeared very late in bloom owing to the unusual length of the cold season. Besides the usual routine work of keeping the garden in a fit state no less than 20,280 square yards of road within the garden were repaired. The decay in the great Banyan tree due probably to senility has now become pronounced through the attacks of a virulent fungoid growth. It is proposed to transplant as large a stock as possible in the rains and, when this gets established, to graft it to the old plant.

Plants and seed
distribution.

245. Some 17,654 plants were distributed as usual to Government institutions, district boards, railways and municipalities and some 1,482 plants, mostly orchids, were received. Two hundred and eighty-six packets and 28 lbs. of seeds were distributed and 127 packets received.

Calcutta Gardens.

246. In addition to the usual routine work, extensive repairs had to be undertaken in the Eden Gardens as the result of damage done while the gardens were temporarily occupied by the Calcutta Exhibition.

Lloyd Botanic
Garden,
Darjeeling.

247. The cold season, the dullest and most severe recorded for many years, was responsible for a certain amount of damage to both exotic and indigenous plants. In addition to the usual distribution of seeds and plants it was found possible to carry out a few improvements to paths and structures in the garden.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1924-25.]

248. The area under cinchona at the end of the year was 3,060 acres. No extension of any importance was carried out at Mungpoo and Munsong, but other ranges have been explored with the result that an area of about 600 acres has been found in the Latpanchor forest with conditions sufficiently favourable to justify the cultivation of experimental plots. **Plantation.**

249. The quantity of cinchona harvested during the year was considerably less than in the year 1923-24. This appears to have been due to the large stocks of bark already held at the factory, as the total quantity of bark worked up at the factory was some 54,000 lb. more than in the previous year. Rather more than half of this bark was Java bark belonging to the Government of India. The quantities of quinine sulphate and other alkaloids prepared from provincial bark were almost the same as last year, the figures being 19,230 lb. of quinine sulphate and 8,348 lb. of other alkaloids. There was a considerable increase in the total outturn of the factory, but this was in products from Java bark. **Outturn.**

250. The manufacture of quinine tablets for sale through Post Offices has been transferred from the Juvenile Jail, Alipore, to the Presidency Jail. Machines for the manufacture of these tablets have been ordered and will be installed at the Mungpoo factory. The manufacture of the tablets will then be transferred to Mungpoo. Provision has also been made for the erection of ferro-concrete tanks for storing quinine in the crude form, as storage in tins has been found unsatisfactory. **Manufacture.**

251. The financial results were satisfactory, although the surplus receipts over expenditure fell from Rs. 4,56,825 in 1923-24 to Rs. 4,42,934 in the year under report and the value of stock at the end of the year was almost Rs. 30,000 less than at the beginning. The total expenditure was Rs. 3,33,626, being slightly lower than in the previous year. The receipts including the jail share for the sale of quinine tablets were Rs. 7,76,560 and were about Rs. 16,000 less than in 1923-24. **Finance.**

Although the quantity of quinine salts supplied to dispensaries and district boards in this Province increased by more than 1,600 lb. there was a decrease of more than 3,300 lb. in the total quantities sold. This decrease was compensated for by an increased demand for cinchona febrifuge, to meet which 5,000 lb. had to be obtained from Madras. The price of quinine sulphate fell during the year from Rs. 28 to Rs. 24, and there were similar reductions in the prices of other products.

Forests.

[The Annual Progress Report on the Forest Administration of the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending the 31st March 1925.]

Administration.

252. The forests of Bengal, which lie along the Himalayas in the north, the Sundarbans in the south, and Chittagong district and Chittagong Hill Tracts in the south-east, cover an area of 11,223 square miles. Of this area 5,288 square miles are now classed as Reserved Forest, one square mile having been added during the year under review. There has been no change in the area of protected forests which remains at 1,753 square miles.

The total outlay on the constitution of State Forests in the year was Rs. 10,026 and included the work of adding 1 square mile to the reserved forests, the settlement of 1 square mile, the demarcation of 14 miles of the exterior boundaries of new reserves, and the repairs of 1,082 miles of old boundaries. Working plans have now been prepared for 96 per cent. of the reserved forests.

Communications and buildings.

253. The total outlay on the essential work of constructing and repairing roads and paths amounted to Rs. 50,440 against Rs. 36,098 in the previous year. The increase is largely attributable to a more comprehensive scheme of new works, Rs. 24,096 having been spent on 12 miles of new cart roads, 38 miles of new bridle paths and 18 miles of other paths. The balance was expended on the maintenance of 417 miles of cart roads, 1,048 miles of bridle paths and 325 miles of other paths.

The total expenditure on buildings was Rs. 95,788 as compared with Rs. 51,536 in the preceding year. Here again the large increase is due to more ambitious schemes including the construction of *bathans*, a rest-house, and quarters for housing officers and subordinates of the forest staff.

Silviculture.

254. The system of artificial regeneration which aims at substituting plantations of good timber trees for forests of small value has, so far as it has been tested, produced satisfactory results. Although the area of these plantations has increased in the last five years from 8,802 to 15,353 acres, this work has actually fallen far behind the programme originally devised. This partial failure must be attributed to lack of roads and to shortage of labour for plantation work. Plantations of this nature require close supervision for which the present staff of Rangers and Deputy Rangers is quite inadequate. It appears, however, that the working plans were prepared on too optimistic a basis and it is obvious that, if there is to be further progress in development, new communications must be opened, and an adequate supply both of labour and of staff for supervision must be provided.

Exploitation.

255. There was a substantial increase in both the quantity and value of the timber and other products extracted by departmental agency. The value rose from Rs. 3,68,126 to Rs. 4,30,097. This work was done mostly in Kurseong, Jalpaiguri and Buxa Divisions. Interesting operations were carried on at Toong and Sukna, where skidders and saw-mills have been started to deal with the timber from the clear-felled areas. These enterprises are an important part of the scheme of artificial regeneration referred to above, and must be regarded as still experimental.

Departmental operations account for only a small percentage of forest products, the greater part being sold standing to purchasers either by auction or on a royalty basis. There was again a considerable increase both in outturn and value of the timber sold in this way. The outturn increased by more than a million cubic feet to 17,440,000, while the value rose from Rs. 10,71,451, to Rs. 12,63,124.

Financial results.

256. The financial results were again satisfactory. Gross revenue rose to Rs. 24½ lakhs, an advance of two lakhs on the figures of the previous year and almost four lakhs above the average of the five years ending 1922-23. Expenditure increased by almost Rs. 1,59,000 and net revenue by Rs. 55,000, being respectively, Rs. 2,70,000 and 1¼ lakhs above the average for the same period of five years.

Industries.

[Report of the Department of Industries, Bengal, for the year 1924.]

257. Dr. D. B. Meek held charge of the department throughout the year.

Administration.

258. Much inconvenience has hitherto been felt owing to the absence of a separate laboratory for industrial research. This defect will be removed on the completion of the Industrial Research Laboratory building which is now in course of construction. The experiments on the damp-proofing of match composition were continued with the help of a special grant made by Government for the purchase of additional chemicals and apparatus. Arrangements have been made for systematic researches on the manufacture of glass and sugar. Experiments on the damp-proofing qualities of glues produced interesting results which will shortly be embodied in a bulletin for the information of the public.

**Industrial
Research.**

259. The research work conducted at the Calcutta Research Tannery was of special interest and comprised a variety of subjects including tannage of sole leather, manufacture of box sides from dry-salted cow hides and the tannage of lizard skins. The investigation conducted with dry-salted hides from the districts of

**Calcutta Research
Tannery.**

Rangpur and Dinajpur brought to light the fact that, although these hides were otherwise of excellent quality, their value was seriously impaired by the presence of pox-marks which were almost universal. This has emphasised the necessity of stamping out this disease which is prevalent in many parts of the province. A process for tanning lizard skins was evolved and steps were taken to introduce it among local tanners.

**Technical
education.**

260. The total number of technical schools, public and private, at the close of the year was 96 against 93 and the number of pupils 5,061 against 4,039 in the previous year. The total expenditure on these institutions was Rs. 6,71,423 against Rs. 5,73,805 in the previous year. Of this sum, Rs. 2,39,753 represented contributions from provincial revenues while Rs. 80,595 was contributed from district and municipal funds. The fee receipts amounted to Rs. 51,595. A sum of Rs. 5,750 represented endowments, while other private sources accounted for Rs. 2,93,730. The total number of purely Government institutions was 28, the chief among them being the Serampore Weaving Institute and the Mainamati Survey School.

Grants-in-aid.

261. Owing to financial stringency many applications for grants-in-aid to technical schools and for technical scholarships to students had to be refused.

**State technical
scholarships.**

262. No State scholarships were granted during the year. The question of framing in advance a programme of subjects arranged in order of urgency in which foreign training for technical scholars is necessary is under the consideration of Government.

**Calcutta
Technical
School.**

263. It is proposed to open the school on the 1st of January next. Government have already spent a sum of Rs. 11 lakhs in land acquisition and building construction for this school. The Port Commissioners have promised an annual grant of Rs. 100 per student which will be roughly equivalent to Rs. 2,000 a year and certain engineering firms have also guaranteed their share of Rs. 3,000 per annum. Negotiations with the Calcutta Corporation regarding the annual grant of Rs. 20,000 expected from that body have, however, been protracted owing to the conditions put forward by the Corporation being unacceptable to the Governing Body of the School. Negotiations between the Corporation and the Governing Body of the School are still in progress.

**Work of local
bodies, etc.**

264. It is satisfactory to find that the district boards of Mymensingh, Tippera and Nadia have evinced a forward policy in the matter of allotting funds for technical education. The Mymensingh District Board has utilised the expert advice and the grant-in-aid available from the Government to equip its technical school with power-driven machinery and well-planned workshops. The Tippera District Board is reported to be contemplating a similar

progressive policy, while the Nadia District Board is building a local technical school with the object of giving training in the use of oil-engines, power-driven pumps and machinery, wood and metal-work, motor-cars, wheel-making and coach-building, electric light, plant, etc. Good work is also reported as being done by the Industrial School at Faridpur under the Australian Baptist Mission with the help of the grant-in-aid and expert advice from Government.

265. The Bengal Retrenchment Committee suggested that the four technical schools at Barisal, Pabna, Bogra and Rangpur should be deprovincialised and that technical education should be stimulated by Government by the grant-in-aid system. While it is the accepted policy of Government to stimulate technical education generally by a system of grant-in-aid, it has been decided to continue to maintain the existing technical schools as models to non-Government institutions in the province.

General.

In consideration of the annual grant-in-aid of Rs. 10,000 paid by Government to the Jamshedpur Technical Institute, six students from Bengal were admitted into that institution.

Manufacture and Mines.

[Statistical Abstract for British India.]

266. The year under report shows a slight decline in the area under jute cultivation, including Cooch Behar State, the acreage being 2,390,000 against 2,444,000 in the preceding year. The out-turn was 7,240,000 bales, a decrease of about 4 per cent, as compared with the previous year. There were 85 jute mills at work and the daily average number of operatives employed was 334,316, an increase of 10,962, over the previous year. The number of looms and spindles at work in the jute mills were 49,470 and 1,047,785, respectively, as against 48,094 and 1,025,343 in 1923-24. The authorized capital in rupees, sterling and dollars was Rs. 23,01,55,000; £2,125,000 and \$12,000,000, respectively.

Jute.

267. Thirteen cotton mills were at work employing on an average 12,990 persons daily as against 11,943 persons in 1923-24. The number of looms and spindles was 2,823 and 347,704, respectively, as compared with 2,542 and 332,191 in the preceding year. The authorised capital was Rs. 22,700,000.

Cotton.

268. The area under tea in 1924 was 186,600 acres (including figures for the Tripura State) as against 185,700 acres in the previous year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 87,459,500 lb. as against 88,176,654 lb. in 1923. The number of tea plantations totalled 373 employing on an average 151,586 permanent and 10,224 temporary hands daily.

Tea.

Silk.

269. There was only one silk mill under the operation of the Indian Factories Act. The mill employed a daily average of 235 operatives. The Government nurseries distributed 17,000 *kahans* of seed cocoons, and the selected rearers 14,000 *kahans*, during the year. The total production of seed cocoons during the year may be taken to be 31,000 *kahans* of disease-free seeds, raised partly by Government nurseries and partly by private agencies under Government supervision.

Sugar.

270. The acreage under sugar crops decreased from 265,500 to 261,400 in 1924-25. The Cossipur Sugar Works, which is the only regular sugar factory under the operation of the Indian Factories Act in the Province, employed on an average 96 persons daily.

Coal.

271. Although the number of collieries worked within the scope of the Indian Mines Act fell during the year from 270 to 250, and the number of persons employed in them decreased from 44,251 to 43,621, the total yearly output of coal increased from 4,621,578 tons to 5,031,655 tons. A rebate of 25 per cent of the actual freight rate, excluding terminal and other charges, was allowed with effect from the 1st January 1924 on the export of coal and coke booked from collieries on the East Indian and Bengal-Nagpur Railways to Calcutta. This concession was granted in order to help the Indian coal industry to regain a footing in export markets, which, as a result of war conditions, had been captured by coal from other countries. The half rake system was modified during the year so as to give a better service of wagons to the smaller colliery owners, and from the middle of the year the supply of wagons was sufficient. As the production of coal exceeded the demand, prices fell steadily throughout the year.

Paper.

272. There were three paper mills at work during the year, employing on an average 4,058 persons daily. They produced 21,319 tons of paper, valued at Rs. 1,11,00,000.

Wool.

273. Two woollen mills with 32 looms and 2,168 spindles were at work during the year, employing on an average 345 persons daily. They produced 422,457 lb. of blankets, valued approximately at Rs. 4,73,071. One of them, the Dacca Jail, is a Government concern.

**Salt and
saltpetre.**

274. Two saltpetre refineries were at work during the year, against 3 in the preceding year, and they produced 1,059 maunds of saltpetre, against 1,440 maunds in 1923-24. No purified salt or *sitta* (impure salt) was educed in the process of refinement, and there was no sale of purified salt.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

275. A rice mill was started at Baraset and is doing well. Nadia is famous for the clay modelling industries of Krishnagar and the country-made fine cloths of Santipur. The Jessore comb factory continued to do good work. The products of the mother-of-pearl factory at Chougacha in the Magura subdivision have a large sale in different parts of India. Life-like photos and pictures made of oyster shell at this factory are sold at a very high price. Murshidabad district maintained its record of useful work in the manufacture of bell-metal ware, nut-cutters, locks, nails, trunks, iron safes, kit boxes, scavenging carts, dust bins, strong locks, well-rings, mulberry silk, ivory carving, lac-turnery, hand-made paper, vegetable dyes, etc. There is a jam and pickle factory at Jiaganj.

Presidency.

276. The iron industry suffered from financial difficulties and had to restrict its operations. The Sarsatali foundry had to close down. The coal industry also suffered from a depressed market and many collieries had either to restrict work or to shut down altogether. The rice mills continued to be a profitable venture. The manufacture of chrome leather at Tantipara was satisfactory during the year. Four rice mills and two lac factories, one tobacco factory, one bell-metal factory, one cutlery factory, one match factory and one tile factory were in operation during the year in the district of Bankura. In the Midnapore district rice mills were gradually increasing in number and 10 worked during the year. In the Hooghly district the bell-metal, chikan and mosquito nets industries, jute mills, cotton mills, rope factory, etc., did well.

Burdwan.

277. The manufacture of buttons and combs from horns, the knitting of stockings, and silver work, especially filigree, deserve mention. In the Mymensingh district the oil-cloth factory continued to do good work, but the lac business at Madhupur suffered much injury from excessive rains. There are two sugar factories at Lakhikole in the district of Faridpur. The manufactures of the Bhola Hosiery Company were excellent in quality and commanded a ready market. The crudely designed and gaudily coloured wooden horses of Nangalbundh mèla in Dacca district were in great demand at the Wembley Exhibition.

Dacca.

278. The tea industry had a very prosperous year. There was considerable improvement of the silk industry of Bogra, while Malda maintained its premier position in that industry in the whole Province. All the industries, silkworm-rearing, silk reeling, silk weaving, matka weaving and matka spinning are increasing

Rajshahi.

in importance. The Burirhat tobacco farm in Rangpur district grew Sumatra tobacco and produced good cigars for demonstration purposes.

Chittagong.

279. The manufacture of bamboo umbrella handles at Sitakund showed no signs of improvement. Wooden pipes, *hookas*, umbrellas, saris and coatings of Mainamati, bell-metal utensils, pottery, tiles, cane-baskets and bags, iron safes, etc., deserve mention among the small industries of Tippera. In Noakhali cobblers are turning out better qualities of leather, shoes and boots. Some dyeing of cloth is also being carried on with local and foreign dyes.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal for the year 1924]

**Number of
factories and
operatives.**

280. Ninety-four factories were added to the Bengal register during the year and 30, owing to their closing down, were removed from it. The net total was 1,104 factories of which 750 were inspected one or more times during the year. The average number of operatives daily employed in registered factories rose by 19,488 to 543,123. Jute mills, jute presses, railway works, tea factories and rice mills showed increases of 12,184, 2,847, 4,396, 3,613 and 753, respectively, other industries showing various decreases. The average number of women employed rose, mostly in jute mills and tea factories, from 66,831 to 71,659, while the average number of children employed fell, mostly in non-textile concerns, from 35,359 to 35,040.

**Wages and
labour supply.**

281. Except in engineering works, where a scarcity in certain types of skilled labour has for several years been noticeable, the supply of labour was generally in excess of demand. Wages in general were stationary; 44 strikes with a view to increasing wages failed, and they were all short-lived.

**Sanitary and
housing
arrangement,
general health.**

282. The general health was good; further improvements in sanitary conditions were effected by many employers and new septic tank installations were put into operation in 7 jute mills, a paint works and an oil-tinning factory. Two important sewerage schemes that will eventually benefit about 100,000 work-people are projected in the Titaghar and Bhatpara Municipalities; and work on the former was begun at the opening of the year. A further advance was made in the provision of improved housing accommodation by several owners of textile factories, while a tentative Child Welfare and Baby Clinic scheme in one jute-mill showed promise of becoming popular and successful. The Certifying

Surgeon of Factories, Barrackpore, reported a general improvement in the employment of children in the large area under his control.

283. Rules regulating the installation and use of septic tanks in factories were issued during the year, and many applications for exemption from various provisions of the Act were dealt with. The difficulty noticed in previous years of reconciling the peculiarities of some industries with the requirements of the Act was again prominent and orders were awaited on proposals to the Government of India that the Act should in some respects be amended.

Septic tanks.

284. The number of accidents reported was 2,222, of which 1,442 were slight. This represents a net increase of 552 over the figures of the previous year; but the increase of slight accidents alone was 475, while fatal accidents decreased from 76 to 49. The Workmen's Compensation Act is believed to account in part for the increase in slight accidents reported. The percentage of all accidents to the total number of persons employed was 0.40. Active remedial and precautionary measures were taken by the factory staff, these including special precautions regarding high-speed abrasive wheels and the condemnation of heavily fluted rollers introduced by some jute mills in carding machinery. The general standard of fencing of machinery was also successfully raised during the year.

Accidents.

285. There were 28 prosecutions under the Act. Of these cases 25 ended in conviction.

Prosecutions.

BENGAL STEAM BOILER COMMISSION

[Report for the period January to December 1924]

286. The Commission entered upon a new chapter in its history on the 1st January 1924, when the Bengal Steam Boilers and Prime Movers Act of 1879 passed out of operation and the Indian Boilers Act of 1923 was brought into force. The old law was framed primarily for Calcutta and its suburbs and was extended by notification to selected districts as industries developed. Under the new law the position is the reverse: it extends to the whole of British India, but gives power to the Governor-General in Council to exclude particular areas. A leading result has been to bring under the law the boilers in the tea-districts of Bengal and Assam, to which the old Act had not been extended. At the request of the Government of Assam that province has been placed under the Bengal Commission, whose jurisdiction in consequence now embraces the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam. In none of these provinces has any area been

**Indian Boilers
Act of 1923.**

excluded from the operations of the new Act; and it is estimated that the number of boilers to be dealt with by the Commission is about 2,000 more than before.

**Inspection of
boilers.**

287. The staff inspected 6,904 boilers, paying 1,033 visits in Assam, and the number of boilers on the register at the close of the year was 7,722. The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 3,00,578 against Rs. 1,82,194 in 1923 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,65,272 against Rs. 1,74,392 in the previous year.

THE BENGAL SMOKE NUISANCES COMMISSION.

**Meetings and
inspections.**

288. The operations of the Commission expanded, and further improvements were achieved. The Commission held 12 meetings. The staff made 3,410 visits to factories, took 11,708 observations, approved or rejected 83 plans of new installations, disposed of 56 complaints, brought 2,262 minor offences to the notice of owners, served 34 statutory warnings, and instituted 14 prosecutions.

Smoke conditions.

289. General smoke conditions improved by a reduction of the emission of smoke, in average figures, from 1.49 to 1.39 minutes per hour. Public developments which contributed to the general improvement included the installation of 710 new motors aggregating 10,990 horse-power within the system of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, and the fitting by the Oriental Gas Company of 1,010 new gas appliances for domestic use and 39 for industrial use. The effect of these additional gas appliances is calculated to produce a reduction of the monthly discharge of soot by 5 tons. The use of paddy husk instead of coal in the furnaces of rice mills in appliances specially designed for that form of fuel extended with marked results. Forty-two new rice mills were started during the year and, in an area now containing about a hundred rice mills, the minutes of black smoke per hour fell from about 200 to 40.

**Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923
(VIII of 1923).**

[Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal,
from 1st July to 31st December 1924.]

**Administrative
measures.**

290. The Workmen's Compensation Act came into force on 1st July 1924. At first, as a temporary measure, the District Judges of the chief industrial districts, 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Burdwan, were appointed to be Commissioners under the Act for their respective districts and the Chief Judge of the Court of Small Causes for the town of Calcutta; but subsequently,

in order to secure uniformity in the administration of the Act, a single whole-time Commissioner was appointed in October 1924 for all the districts of Bengal.

291. The number of cases instituted during the first six months was very small. The small number of disputes was due principally to the novelty of the legislation, but also among other things to the operation of Schedule I, which, by providing fixed and arbitrary compensation for injuries which admit of exact definition (such as loss of limbs), excludes a fruitful source of dispute. Employers are required by the Act to deposit compensation with the Commissioner in all cases of fatal accidents. Twenty-six such deposits were received, totalling Rs. 22,642-2, out of which Rs. 11,840-10 had been awarded to dependants before the close of the year. The Act gives the Commissioner power to invest money awarded to minors for their benefit. Rupees 3,350 was thus invested. The Act also provides that all agreements between employers and workmen for payment of lump sums as compensation under the Act must be registered by the Commissioner. Seventeen memoranda of agreement were presented for registration, of which 8 were registered, 7 refused and 2 were pending at the end of the year.

**Disputes,
compensation,
etc.**

The Act further lays upon all employers of workmen as defined therein (with few exceptions) the duty of submitting an Annual Return showing the number of injuries for which they have paid compensation and the amount of compensation paid. The returns for the first six months show the total daily average attendance of workmen to be 663,073 and a total of Rs. 32,682 paid as compensation or nearly 10 pies per head. Accidents resulting in death numbered 47, in permanent disablement 32, and in temporary disablement 519, the compensation paid for each type of accident being, respectively, Rs. 19,521, Rs. 6,651, and Rs. 6,510. The Government of India, by notification No. L—1272, dated the 15th April 1925, have enabled employers who are insured, or members of associations of employers, to have their returns submitted in future by the association or insurance company, if approved by the Local Government. This year returns for many of the larger concerns were compiled by the Calcutta Claims Bureau and other associations of insurance companies, though they had to be submitted over the signature of the actual employers.

Alteration of System of Telephone Charges in Calcutta.

292. As the result of a request from the Government of India, a representative Committee was appointed by the Government of

Bengal in December 1923 to examine a proposal made by the Bengal Telephone Corporation, Limited, to introduce a message rate system of telephone charges in Calcutta in lieu of the flat rate system. The message rate system was recommended by the Committee and this recommendation was supported by the Local Government. The Government of India accordingly accepted the proposal and revised their agreement with the Bengal Telephone Corporation, Limited, to provide for the introduction of the message rate system with effect from the 1st September 1924.

Trade.

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1924-25.]

Trade position.

293. The Foreign and Coasting trade of Bengal excluding treasure established a new record in the year 1924-25 with an aggregate value of over Rs. 283 crores as against Rs. 255 crores in the preceding year. The foreign trade of the province advanced from Rs. 215 crores to Rs. 243 crores. The total value of imports increased from Rs. 82.79 crores to Rs. 90.12 crores, and the value of exports advanced from Rs. 132.66 crores to Rs. 152.45 crores, the net result being an increase in the favourable trade balance from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 62 crores. On the import side the most important features of the year were an improvement in the piece-goods trade and a falling off in imports of railway materials and machinery. On the export side both raw and manufactured jute did exceptionally well and tea had another year of great prosperity. The coal trade, however, continued to be depressed and lac began to feel the effects of American competition in the manufacture of finished products. The coasting trade of Bengal was over Rs. 40.71 crores against Rs. 39.87 crores of the preceding year, as the following statement shows:—

Coasting trade.

		1923-24. Rs.	1924-25. Rs.
Imports	..	22,62,37,762	22,36,91,898
Exports	..	17,24,93,911	18,34,49,441

Improvement in the rupee exchange led to a general fall in prices of imports to which grey piece-goods furnished the most conspicuous exception. Export prices have simultaneously risen and, although the export of coal and import of piece-goods were both far below pre-war level, the volume of trade of the Province was greater during the year under review than at any time before the war.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles
of import.

294. The following table shows the comparative importance of the principal articles in the import trade of Calcutta. Articles which form less than .5 per cent. of the total have been omitted from the list:—

	1923-24.	1924-25.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Cotton goods	28,79,31,982	35,48,90,986	40.87
Metals and ores	8,25,14,585	9,71,68,074	11.10
Sugar	6,25,40,186	7,57,91,467	8.74
Machinery and mill work	5,92,65,904	4,39,95,802	5.07
Oils	3,27,07,329	3,89,69,547	4.49
Railway plant and rolling stock	5,60,91,624	3,00,09,327	3.46
Hardware, excluding cutlery and electroplated ware.	1,44,24,450	1,65,89,371	1.91
Instruments, apparatus and appliances	1,25,33,079	1,33,17,387	1.53
Spices	1,20,64,779	1,17,35,385	1.36
Salt	80,46,830	1,05,46,306	1.21
Provisions and oilman's stores	80,02,973	1,05,30,317	1.21
Motor cars, motor cycles and parts thereof	92,69,087	99,90,781	1.15
Liquors including methylated and perfumed spirits.	93,77,208	93,96,564	1.08
Paper and pasteboard	73,63,210	88,03,868	1.01
Postal articles not specified	96,45,098	87,65,454	1.01
Chemicals and chemical preparations	79,60,236	80,78,774	.93
Glass and glassware	70,93,146	77,38,035	.89
Tobacco	75,26,676	75,69,641	.87
Tea-chests, entire or in sections	47,56,853	67,57,219	.78
Woollen goods	42,64,637	60,38,299	.70
Drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics).	59,96,207	58,58,034	.67
Artificial silk	27,80,676	54,30,569	.62
Paints and painters' materials	46,10,670	46,08,902	.53
Rubber	56,75,448	45,45,705	.52

The important articles are separately dealt with in the following paragraphs:—

295. Nine hundred and five million yards of cotton piece-goods of all kinds worth Rs. 31,56.42 lakhs were imported during the year as compared with 753 million yards valued at Rs. 25,74.39 lakhs in the year 1923-24. Imports of grey piece-goods amounted to 634 million yards worth Rs. 20,69 lakhs as against 522 million yards worth Rs. 16.32 lakhs. Imports of white cotton goods also increased in quantity from 143 million yards to 186 million yards and in value from Rs. 4.91 lakhs to Rs. 6.43 lakhs, while those of coloured and printed goods decreased from 87.027 million yards valued at Rs. 4,51.36 lakhs to 85.162 million yards, valued at Rs. 443.19 lakhs. The United Kingdom as usual supplied the bulk of the trade. Japan after marking time for three years made a substantial advance.

Cotton goods.

296. Imports of refined sugar increased from 155,332 tons valued at Rs. 5,78.05 lakhs to 244,491 tons valued at Rs. 7,240.45 lakhs. This improvement may be attributed in part to the smaller yield of the Indian crop but it was mainly due to the fall in Java

Sugar.

prices, owing to a slackening of the demand in Europe. Java continued to be the principal supplier, imports from other sources being small. Imports of molasses fell from 58,395 tons to 53,124 tons, the price also falling in sympathy with sugar prices.

**Metals and metal
manufactures.**

297. In all 315,703 tons of metal and metal manufactures valued at Rs. 7.13 lakhs were imported as against 245,904 tons valued at Rs. 6.17 lakhs in 1923-24. In anticipation of the protective duties imposed on certain kinds of imported steel in the interest of competitive Indian products, very large orders were placed with European firms early in the year in order to obtain delivery before the new duties came into force. It was expected that local prices would rise substantially but no marked rise actually occurred. The position was largely influenced by the increased activities of the Continental iron and steel-making countries coupled with the steady rise of Exchange. The immediate result of protection was thus temporarily to stimulate import trade in the protected articles. Apart from speculation in the metal market, the prosperity of the tea industry was responsible to a certain extent for the increased imports of galvanized iron sheets and light structural sections. There was an increase also in the importation of galvanized plain and black sheets, which were absorbed mostly by the smaller Indian industries such as the manufacture of domestic hardware. The total tonnage of tin plates fell from 15,252 tons to 10,668 tons, owing to increased output of Indian plates. Imports of tinplates from the United States showed some increase, representing approximately one-third of the total imports. The growth of the Indian tinplate industry led to increased imports of tin, the bulk of supplies coming from the Straits Settlements. Imports of brass increased notably in the form of manufactured brass other than sheathing. Imports of unwrought brass from the United Kingdom fell from 956 to 490 tons, while imports from the United States rose from 350 to 883 tons. The United Kingdom still held the lion's share of the trade in wrought brass, though receipts of sheathings from Germany increased. Imports of copper from the United Kingdom showed a decline while imports from Germany showed an advance. In the aluminium trade the most noticeable features were increased imports from the United Kingdom and the United States and the disappearance from the market of Switzerland which contributed 245 tons in the previous year.

Machinery.

298. The total value of the imports of machinery declined from Rs. 5.92-65 lakhs in 1923-24 to Rs. 4.39-95 lakhs, the decrease being distributed fairly evenly among certain industries. Imports of jute machinery decreased from Rs. 1.30-99 lakhs to Rs. 92-42 lakhs. There were noticeable decreases also in the imports of

cotton, coal-mining, oil-crushing, workshop and foundry, and metal working machinery, as well as of boilers. Imports of tea machinery increased from Rs. 29.10 lakhs to Rs. 33.36 lakhs. Sewing and knitting machines and rice and flour machinery also showed some improvement. Nearly 90 per cent. of the imports were supplied by the United Kingdom; the United States, Germany, Sweden, Belgium and Japan coming next in that order.

299. Importations of mineral oil from all sources increased from 105½ million to 121 million gallons, the total value advancing from Rs. 7,03.71 lakhs to Rs. 7,90.32 lakhs. Burma supplied 64.32 million gallons, the remainder being imported from other countries chiefly from the United States and Borneo.

Mineral oil.

300. Imports of railway materials on private and Government account were reduced from Rs. 6,08.38 lakhs to Rs. 3,90.14 lakhs. Ninety per cent. of the imports were of British manufacture, although low tenders from Germany and Belgium resulted in increased imports from these countries and a decrease in imports from the United States.

**Railway plant
and rolling stock.**

301. Hardware is an *omnibus* heading for a miscellaneous trade which increased during the year in value from Rs. 144 lakhs to Rs. 166 lakhs. The United Kingdom secured 44, Germany 23 and the United States 17 per cent. of the total trade, Germany's sales advancing from Rs. 21 lakhs to Rs. 38 lakhs.

Hardware.

302. Imports of instruments, apparatus and appliances advanced in value from Rs. 125 lakhs to Rs. 133 lakhs, the improvement being due mainly to larger imports of *electrical instruments* chiefly from the United Kingdom.

**Instruments,
apparatus, and
appliances.**

303. The total value of spices imported fell from Rs. 1,20,64,779 to Rs. 1,17,35,385 in value, owing chiefly to a drop by Rs. 3 lakhs in the imports of *betel nuts* from the Straits Settlements.

Spices.

304. The total imports of salt were 514,464 tons or about 133,347 tons more than in the preceding year, the increase being shared by all countries. With the duty on salt restored to its old level, trade was much brisker, imports were on a high level and the quantity actually passing into consumption was higher than in any previous year on record.

Salt.

305. Imports under this head advanced in value from Rs. 80.02 lakhs to Rs. 1,05.30 lakhs, improvement being noticeable in all important items except cheese. A considerable quantity of vegetable fat which is now being extensively used for cooking purposes was imported from the Netherlands.

Provisions.

306. The number of motor cars, motor cycles and other motor vehicles (lorries, vans, omnibuses, etc.,) imported during the year amounted to 2,957,544 and 672, respectively, as compared with

Motor cars, etc.

2,870,480 and 300, respectively, in the year 1923-24. There was a fall in the total value, however, due to a fall in prices. There was an increase in the imports of motor cars and motor cycles from the United Kingdom and the United States, but a falling off in the imports of Italian cars and American motor cycles. Imports of British motor cycles, however, increased.

Liquors.

307. The total imports of liquors increased in quantity from 1,485,846 gallons to 1,508,369 gallons, and in value from Rs. 93·77 lakhs to Rs. 93·96 lakhs, the improvement being noticeable in all varieties except Java arrack.

**Paper and
paste-board.**

308. The total imports of paper and paste-board amounted to 424,596 cwt. valued at Rs. 88·04 lakhs as compared with 310,538 cwt. valued at Rs. 73·63 lakhs, considerable improvement being noticed in imports of packing and printing paper chiefly from Finland and Germany. There was, however, a decline in the import of writing paper owing to successful competition by local mills.

**Glass and
glassware.**

309. The trade in glass and glassware showed a drop from Rs. 79·93 lakhs to Rs. 77·38 lakhs, the most noticeable decline being in the imports of bangles from Japan owing to the demand for the better-class Czecho-Slovakian article.

Woollen goods.

310. The steady decline in the price of woollen piece-goods continued throughout the year and as a result imports were almost on the same level as in 1920-21, though the total value was much lower. Three-fifths of the woollen trade was with the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy being the other most prominent contributors.

**Silk and artificial
silk piece-goods.**

311. Imports of pure silk piece-goods increased from 128,738 yards valued at Rs. 4·49 lakhs to 271,458 yards valued at Rs. 6·42 lakhs, Japan and China being the principal suppliers. There was also a noticeable increase in the imports of mixed cotton and artificial silk-goods, owing to cheaper prices and improvements in the manufacture of artificial silk yarn. The bulk of the trade was supplied by the United Kingdom while Italian goods were also prominent.

Other imports.

312. The prosperity of the tea industry led to an increase in the value of imports of tea chests (chiefly from the United Kingdom) from Rs. 48 lakhs to Rs. 68 lakhs. The total value of paints and painters' materials imported was steady at Rs. 46 lakhs, but the United Kingdom, though securing the lion's share (Rs. 31 lakhs), lost, as did Germany, a little business to the United States and Japan. There was a slightly better demand for asphalt, but there was a falling off in imports of cement from Rs. 29 lakhs to

Rs. 21 lakhs, owing to strong competition by the local products. Owing to the increased activities of the local match industry imports of foreign articles decreased by Rs. 12 lakhs.

313. The total value of imports from foreign countries into the port of Chittagong advanced from Rs. 94.32 lakhs to Rs. 1,06.16 lakhs. The United Kingdom shared 86 per cent. of this trade.

**Import trade of
Chittagong.**

EXPORT OF MERCHANDISE

314. Exports of Indian merchandise from the port of Calcutta during the year 1924-25 amounted to Rs. 140.97 crores, a considerable advance on the total of Rs. 122.86 crores for 1923-24. The following table shows the values of the principal articles of the export trade of Calcutta and their comparative importance:—

	1923-24	1924-25.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Jute manufactures	42,12,07,758	51,60,82,933	36.61
Jute, raw	19,12,57,845	27,48,78,519	19.50
Tea	21,39,95,866	22,18,46,188	15.74
Grain, pulse and flour	6,78,10,156	7,78,66,207	5.52
Lac	9,05,26,887	7,53,89,058	5.35
Seeds	6,47,61,004	5,64,06,280	4.00
Hides and skins, raw	4,64,14,391	4,82,30,007	3.42
Metals and ores	2,41,32,411	3,23,04,832	2.29
Opium	2,66,30,639	1,47,22,355	1.04
Cotton, raw	96,72,008	1,20,13,252	.92
Hemp, raw	54,37,698	1,09,64,941	.78
Mica	78,48,579	88,92,287	.63
Oil-cakes	75,55,510	58,88,571	.42
Postal articles	49,66,502	58,31,437	.41
Manure	70,13,212	54,21,642	.38
Woollen manufactures	33,85,147	48,17,956	.34
Dyeing and tanning substances (excluding indigo)	51,06,449	40,12,099	.28
Coal, coke and patent fuel	22,00,839	37,49,617	.27
Provisions and oilman's stores	28,35,832	27,81,739	.20
Spices	24,97,751	26,38,626	.19
Saltpetre	24,59,504	25,87,593	.18
Tobacco	14,09,932	24,39,272	.17
Oils	21,75,335	22,22,804	.16
Apparel (excluding hosiery, boots and shoes)	17,50,655	20,18,521	.14
Drugs and medicines	11,52,914	13,18,574	.09
Kapok	11,95,074	12,80,455	.09
Cordage and rope	9,01,980	9,36,506	.07
Leather	7,51,522	9,17,616	.07
Bristles	7,97,164	9,16,911	.07
Fruits and vegetables	7,82,654	7,98,033	.06
Indigo	11,63,158	7,93,508	.05
Animals, living	4,25,182	7,48,057	.05
Silk, raw	15,14,420	7,16,066	.05
Paraffin wax	5,84,855	6,58,801	.05
Fodder and bran	5,52,431	5,93,479	.04
Wool, raw	4,48,715	5,16,933	.04
Other articles	52,58,347	40,56,084	.33
Total Indian merchandise	1,22,86,00,713	1,40,97,57,759	100.00
Total Foreign merchandise re-exported	98,21,537	69,46,275	....
Total merchandise	1,23,84,22,250	1,41,67,04,034	....

The more important articles of export are noticed below:—

315. The jute trade enjoyed a year of record prosperity and both raw jute and jute manufactures headed the list of exports

**Raw jute and
jute manufac-
tures.**

from Calcutta, during the year under report. The total exports of raw jute advanced from 3,556,538 bales valued at Rs. 19,12-58 lakhs to 3,701,572 bales valued at Rs. 27,48-78 lakhs. Germany's purchases amounted to 10 lakhs of bales valued at Rs. 787 lakhs as compared with 9 lakhs of bales valued at Rs. 511 lakhs in the year 1923-24. The United Kingdom, the second largest purchaser, and China, increased their demands. Other important customers except the United States, Belgium, Italy and Brazil also made increased purchases. Collections of jute cess for the Calcutta Improvement Trust increased from Rs. 10-44 lakhs to Rs. 10-81 lakhs.

The year opened with local prices for "first marks" at Rs. 61 per bale, which weakened slightly thereafter till July and kept rising reaching Rs. 76 in September and Rs. 96 at the close of the year.

Shipments of gunny bags increased from 411 millions valued at Rs. 18,05-80 lakhs, to 423 millions valued at Rs. 23,11-18 lakhs. Australia continued to be the largest buyer, but there were appreciable increases in the exports to Cuba and Java. The United States, helped by their own mills and Canada, which had made heavy purchases in the preceding year, reduced their demands. The exports of gunny cloth expanded from 1,347 million yards valued at Rs. 23,71-31 lakhs to 1,455 million yards valued at Rs. 28,23-22 lakhs. The United States, as usual, were the largest purchasers, absorbing nearly two-thirds of the value of the trade, but there were increased demands also from other leading markets in spite of higher prices.

Tea.

316. The tea trade enjoyed another year of great prosperity. The weather was not too favourable and mosquito blight and green fly did damage in some districts. Labour was not in sufficient supply and fine plucking was generally adopted. Production, however, was only a quarter of a million pounds below the 327 million pounds obtained in 1923. The careful manufacture, generally maintained, was well rewarded and the average shipment price obtained rose from 15 annas 2 pies to one rupee and two pies per pound. The high level of prices forced some customers to limit their purchases to immediate requirements, but generally the demand was even greater than in the previous year, the re-entry of Russia into the market being a welcome addition. Although exports from Calcutta decreased from 225 million to 220 million pounds, the quantity shipped from Chittagong increased from 71 million to nearly 80 million pounds. The United Kingdom, as usual, took the largest share, the next best purchasers being Canada, the United States and Australia.

Grain, pulse and flour.

317. The total exports of all descriptions of food-grains including pulse and flour advanced from 437,310 tons valued at

Rs. 6,78-10 lakhs to 463,517 tons valued at Rs. 7,78-66 lakhs, rice exports amounting to 323,470 tons in quantity valued at Rs. 6,04-79 lakhs against 291,399 tons valued at Rs. 5,06-15 lakhs in the preceding year. The impetus given to the demand for rice in the last quarter of the previous year continued during the first quarter of 1924-25 when no less than 107,240 tons were shipped as compared with 54,871 tons in the first quarter of 1923-24. Thereafter the demand slackened and it was only in the last quarter that it revived again on reports of the world's wheat shortage in 1925 and on receipt of the news that the Soviet Government had authorized the import of a large quantity of Indian rice into Russia. Calcutta's share in the wheat trade is very small, but the threatened wheat shortage mentioned above increased the demand for wheat flour from abroad and notably from the Straits Settlements, Mauritius, Turkey and Greece. The demand for barley was extraordinary, the United Kingdom, Germany and Belgium increasing their orders from 47 tons, 4,794 tons, and 1,489 tons to 13,880 tons, 13,425 tons and 10,317 tons, respectively.

318. The total quantity of lac exported fell from 485,048 tons **Lac.** to 428,139 tons and the value from Rs. 9,05-27 lakhs to Rs. 7,53-89 lakhs, owing chiefly to the development of the American shellac industry. A special feature of the year was that while there was a decline in the exports of the finished product, export of the raw material (seed and stick lac) was doubled. At the same time shipment of refuse lac showed a falling off, owing to the demand being more fully satisfied from the American shellac factories. Values moved in sympathy and there was a fall in the prices of button and shellac but a rise in the prices of seed and stick lac.

319. The total quantity of oilseeds of all kinds exported during the year amounted to 219,733 tons valued at Rs. 5,57-31 lakhs as against 253,037 tons valued at Rs. 6,35-67 lakhs. In spite of strong demand, exports of linseed from Calcutta declined from 218,872 tons to 183,502, owing chiefly to increased shipments from the Bombay side. The United Kingdom was, as usual, the largest purchaser. Calcutta's share in the export trade of other oilseeds was small. There was no marked progress in the exports of vegetable oils which amounted to 789,138 gallons only as compared with 793,470 gallons in 1923-24 and the pre-war average of 1,564,406 gallons. **Oilseeds and vegetable oils.**

320. The value of exports of raw hides advanced from Rs. 2,47-11 lakhs to Rs. 2,84-65 lakhs. There was a further decline in shipments to the United Kingdom, but Germany increased her takings. Trade in skins improved most conspicuously in the case of the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands. **Raw hides and skins.**

321. The quantity of manganese ore exported fell from 381,290 to 326,399 tons and the value from Rs. 1,00·76 lakhs to Rs. 94·62 lakhs. Shipments to the United Kingdom and the United States contracted from 190,604 and 74,495 tons to 101,614 and 54,698 tons respectively. Japan, Egypt, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands reduced, but Belgium and France increased their demands. Ferro manganese was in better demand and exports advanced from 69 tons to 1,567 tons; of which 627 tons were taken by Japan, 619 tons by Belgium, 270 tons by the United States of America and 51 tons by the United Kingdom. Production of pig iron in India made good progress and the overseas demand was excellent. The total exports advanced from 182,938 tons valued at Rs. 127·63 lakhs to 340,171 tons valued at Rs. 215·99 lakhs, Japan, the United States, Italy and the United Kingdom increasing their purchases.

Opium.

322. Shipments of opium to the United Kingdom, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, Hongkong, Siam, Java and British Borneo were consigned direct to the Governments of those countries, but shipments to other countries were covered by certificates from the Governments of the countries concerned to the effect that the consignments had been approved by them and were required for legitimate purposes. Exports on private account declined from 6,130 chests to 3,365 chests, all countries except Persia receiving smaller supplies. Exports by Government increased, however, from 2,565 to 3,591 chests, due chiefly to larger shipments to the Straits Settlements.

Cotton.

323. Although the total exports of raw cotton from the whole of India declined, shipments from Calcutta advanced by 23 per cent. from 6,691 tons to 8,241 tons. Japan, Germany and the United States took the bulk of the trade. China's purchases were, however, disappointing. Exports of twist and yarn dropped from 254,404 tons to 207,662 tons. China took the same as in the previous year. Other customers reduced their takings, and Egypt required nothing at all. Exports of Kapok made a further advance from 838 to 1,058 tons, the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom being the largest purchasers.

Hemp.

324. The exports of hemp increased in quantity from 340,032 cwt. to 452,042 cwt. and in value from Rs. 54·38 lakhs to Rs. 1,09·65 lakhs, Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom being the principal purchasers.

Mica.

325. The improvement recorded in the previous year was well maintained and, although the quantity of mica shipped was smaller than in the previous year by 679 cwt., the value increased by Rs. 10·43 lakhs. The United States of America and the United Kingdom were the largest buyers.

326. The exports of coal to foreign countries amounted to 228,117 tons valued at Rs. 37.15 lakhs as compared with 131,559 tons valued at Rs. 22 lakhs in 1923-24. The total trade (foreign and coasting) showed an improvement of 13 per cent. on the previous year's figures, but foreign exports were still very poor being confined practically to Ceylon.

Coal.

327. There was no substantial improvement in the saltpetre trade, although the total shipments advanced from 143,719 cwt. valued at Rs. 24.59 lakhs in 1923-24 to 159,320 cwt. valued at Rs. 25.88 lakhs in 1924-25. The United Kingdom increased her purchases from 9,778 cwt. to 21,400 cwt. Ceylon, China and Mauritius were the other principal customers.

Saltpetre.

328. The total quantity of dyeing and tanning substances exported dropped from 37,120 tons to 23,597 tons and the value from Rs. 62.69 lakhs to Rs. 48.05 lakhs. Myrobolan formed the bulk of the trade. Bad crops reduced supplies but raised prices, for while the quantity exported declined by 38 per cent. the value only fell by 23 per cent. The United Kingdom, Germany and the United States were the largest buyers. France, Belgium and Italy reduced, while Japan and the Netherlands increased their purchases. The demand for myrobolan extracts fell off and the quantity shipped contracted from 3,117 tons to 2,131 tons, most of which was for the United Kingdom. Exports of indigo fell further from 3,316 cwt. valued at Rs. 11.63 lakhs to 2,142 cwt. valued at Rs. 7.94 lakhs, Japan and other purchasing countries reducing their demands.

Dyeing and
tanning
substances
including indigo.

329. Of exports not specially reviewed in this report, the most important was *oil-cake* which dropped in value from Rs. 76 lakhs to Rs. 59 lakhs owing to reduced purchases by Japan. The next largest item, manures, also suffered a set-back after the heavy trading in the preceding year. Shipments of sulphate of ammonia improved by Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 19 lakhs, while those of bones declined from Rs. 57 lakhs to Rs. 34 lakhs. Larger shipments of *carpets* and *rugs* nearly all to the United Kingdom raised the value of woollen manufactures from Rs. 34 lakhs to Rs. 48 lakhs. There was a striking increase also from Rs. 14 lakhs to Rs. 24 lakhs in the value of tobacco exported owing to the very heavy demands for unmanufactured tobacco from the Netherlands, Japan and Belgium.

Other articles.

330. Exports from Chittagong to foreign countries expanded from Rs. 94.32 lakhs to Rs. 1,06.16 lakhs. Shipments of tea increased from 71 million to 80 million pounds and of jute from 135,072 to 169,966 bales.

Foreign exports
from Chittagong.

331. The following table shows the distribution of the import and export trade of Calcutta :—

Import (Merchandise).

	Average for the 3 years ending 1920-21.		1923-24.		1921-25.	
	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.
United Kingdom ..	50.84	57.42	52.20	66.17	55.01	63.35
British Possessions ..	5.12	5.78	3.68	4.66	4.29	4.94
United States...	11.07	12.5	4.81	6.09	5.07	5.83
Germany ..	34	0.38	2.37	3.01	3.54	4.07
France ..	47	0.53	47	0.59	52	0.59
Belgium ..	67	0.75	1.42	1.80	1.74	2.00
Italy ..	76	0.85	83	1.05	93	1.07
Japan ..	8.09	9.13	3.20	4.05	4.66	5.36
Java ..	8.27	9.34	6.52	8.02	7.18	8.26
South America ..	1	0.01	..	..	..	..
Total (including other countries).	88.53	100	78.88	100	86.83	100

Export (Merchandise).

	Average for the 3 years ending 1920-21.		1923-24.		1924-25.	
	Rs. (lakhs)	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs)	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs.)	Per cent.
United Kingdom ..	30.13	26.47	33.25	26.82	35.71	25.20
British Possessions ..	16.26	14.14	17.66	14.24	20.50	14.47
United States...	34.21	29.76	28.46	22.96	29.53	20.84
Germany ..	97	0.84	8.31	6.71	12.01	8.47
France ..	5.24	4.55	4.62	3.73	5.34	3.76
Belgium ..	1.86	1.61	3.13	2.52	4.45	3.14
Italy ..	1.76	1.53	2.79	2.25	3.27	2.30
Japan ..	4.40	3.82	4.01	3.24	4.29	3.02
Java ..	2.15	1.87	1.54	1.24	1.84	1.29
South America ..	7.95	6.91	6.68	5.40	8.04	5.67
Total (including other countries).	1,14.94	100	1,23.99	100	1,41.67	100

The total trade of the United Kingdom with Calcutta amounted to Rs.90,72.70 lakhs as against Rs. 85,46.47 lakhs in 1923-24, but in spite of increased exports and imports her share in the grand total of Calcutta's trade was reduced to 39.71 per cent. from 42.16 per cent. in the preceding year, owing chiefly to the recovery of German trade. There were increased supplies from the United Kingdom of cotton goods, metals and ores, tea chests, instruments, apparel, soap, provisions, drugs and medicines, wool manufacture, flax and printed books. This increase more than balanced the falling off in the imports of railway materials and machinery, tobacco, building materials, umbrellas, liquors, paints and colour. On the export side there were increases in raw jute, woollen carpets, mica, raw wool, raw hemp, raw hides and skins. Although the quantity taken was less, the value of the tea shipped was greater than in 1923-24. The only serious falling off was in linseed.

Imports from all the more important overseas territories of the British Empire except Canada improved. Australia sent more raw wool, Ceylon more cocoanut oil, and Mauritius more sugar. There were larger imports of salt from Aden, of block tin and sago flour from the Straits Settlements, of cloves from Zanzibar and of magadi soda from Kenya. Heavier shipments of jute manufactures contributed to the increase of trade with overseas British possessions, other factors being larger shipments of tea and linseed to Australia, and of rice to Ceylon and Mauritius. There were also larger exports of jute manufactures to Canada, but smaller purchases of tea reduced the total export trade with that country.

Germany continued to occupy the leading position among Continental countries, her total trade having advanced from Rs. 10,69.50 lakhs to Rs. 15,55.80 lakhs. The total imports from Germany amounted to Rs. 3,54.16 lakhs the most noticeable increases being in her supplies of metals (chiefly iron and steel), cotton manufactures, paper, white oil, wool manufactures, haberdashery, millinery, aniline dyes, hardware, instruments and beer. The only falling off was in glassware, toys and cement. The total value of exports to Germany showed a rise to Rs. 12.2 lakhs due to her increased purchases of raw jute, raw hides, grain and pulse, lac, seeds, mica, myrobolan, raw cotton and raw hemp. There were increased imports of metals (chiefly iron and steel), cotton manufactures, railway plant and rolling stock, machinery and mill-work from Belgium, of motor cars, metals, wines and spirits from France, of cotton manufactures and of piece-goods of artificial silk and cotton from Italy, and of hardware, sugar, paper, pasteboard, cotton twist, yarn and cotton manufactures from Austria. There was a falling off, however, in imports of motor tyres and tubes from France and of matches from Sweden. Turning to exports of Continental countries, France was the most important customer after Germany, although the improvement in purchases by Belgium was also marked. There were larger shipments of raw jute to France, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain, of linseed, manganese ore and raw hemp to Belgium, of goat skins and tobacco to the Netherlands, of raw hides to Spain and of tea to Russia. There was a reduction in purchases of linseed by France and of gunny bags by Greece and Turkey-in-Europe.

Java made larger shipments of sugar and still occupied the leading position in Calcutta's import trade with Asiatic countries. Japan supplied larger quantities of cotton twist, yarn and piece-goods, but there was a falling off in the imports of Japanese glassware and matches. Java, China and Japan increased their purchases of gunny bags and there were larger despatches of raw jute to China.

Imports from the United States advanced from Rs. 481 lakhs to Rs. 507 lakhs with larger sales of kerosine and lubricating oils, motor cars, tobacco, tinned sheets and plates, the most noticeable decline being in her business in "machinery". Exports to the United States expanded from Rs. 28,47 lakhs to Rs. 29,53 lakhs. There was a marked falling off in shipments of shellac, goat skins and raw jute, but these were more than compensated by heavier purchases of gunny cloth, pig iron, raw cotton, raw wool and tea. There was a decline in shipments of raw jute to Brazil, but the shipments of gunny cloth to the Argentine and of gunny bags to Cuba, Chile, Peru and Porto Rico increased.

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal, 1924-25.]

Total trade.

332. The total value of the trade in merchandise across the land frontier of Bengal with the adjacent states of Nepal, Sikkim, Tibet and Bhutan in the year ending 31st March 1925, amounted to Rs. 186 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 18 lakhs or 9 per cent. as compared with 1923-24, and Rs. 12 lakhs or 6 per cent. as compared with 1922-23. The figures exclude the transactions in treasure, the registration of which was as usual somewhat defective.

Imports of merchandise decreased in value from Rs. 156 lakhs to Rs. 134 lakhs in the year under report, mainly as a result of less imports from Nepal and Sikkim. The value of the export trade, on the other hand, showed a slight advance from Rs. 48 lakhs to Rs. 51 lakhs in 1924-25.

Imports.

333. The principal articles imported into Bengal were fruits, vegetables and nuts, raw wool and living animals for sale, which together accounted for 83.6 per cent. of the total volume of the imports during the year under review. Imports of fruits, vegetables and nuts were valued at Rs. 62 lakhs to which Sikkim contributed Rs. 47 lakhs and Nepal Rs. 12 lakhs. Arrivals of raw wool, almost entirely from Tibet, fell by Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 27 lakhs. Imports of living animals for sale were valued at Rs. 23 lakhs in which Nepal's share was Rs. 12 lakhs and Sikkim's Rs. 9 lakhs. Among other articles, imports of provisions, mainly from Nepal and Sikkim, were valued at Rs. 4 lakhs; spices and grain and pulse valued at Rs. 4 lakhs and Rs. 3 lakhs, respectively, were supplied mostly by Sikkim; lac and hides and skins worth about Rs. 2 lakhs each, were received chiefly from Tibet.

Exports.

334. Manufactured articles formed the bulk of the exports from Bengal to trans-frontier countries. Cotton manufactures were valued at Rs. 15 lakhs, piece-goods accounting for Rs. 13 lakhs, of which the value of Indian-made goods was Rs. 9 lakhs, and twist

and yarn, mostly Indian, for Rs. 2 lakhs. Tibet took cotton piece-goods worth Rs. 7 lakhs and Sikkim Rs. 3 lakhs. The value of exports of metals and manufactures thereof, chiefly brass and copper, was Rs. 4 lakhs, or a decrease of Rs. 50 thousand as compared with the preceding year; Tibet alone took about Rs. 3 lakhs. The total value of exports of provisions amounted to Rs. 5½ lakhs, the principal recipient being Sikkim (Rs. 4 lakhs). Other important articles of export were grain and pulse, chiefly rice, valued at Rs. 3 lakhs, silk piece goods and woollen piece goods worth Rs. 3 lakhs and Rs. 3½ lakhs respectively, fruits, vegetables and nuts Rs. 2½ lakhs, sugar and tobacco valued at Rs. 1½ lakhs each.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1924-25]

335. The total value of the coasting trade of Bengal, including Government stores but excluding treasure, amounted to Rs. 40,71 lakhs showing an increase of about Rs. 84 lakhs over the preceding year's figures. Calcutta's trade with other ports in India advanced from Rs. 35,35 lakhs to Rs. 35,64 lakhs, a decline in value of imports from Rs. 20,67 lakhs to Rs. 19,72 lakhs being covered by an improvement in exports from Rs. 14,68 lakhs to Rs. 15,92 lakhs. The largest share was secured by Burma whose total trade increased from Rs. 15,46 lakhs to Rs. 16,63 lakhs, while Bombay came second, with a total value of Rs. 12,11 lakhs as compared with Rs. 11,23 lakhs in 1923-24. Trade with Madras declined from Rs. 6,25 lakhs to Rs. 6,07 lakhs, but trade with other Bengal ports, with Sind, with Bihar and Orissa and with non-British Indian ports improved.

**Total Coasting
Trade.**

336. Mineral oil from Burma rose from 56 million gallons valued at Rs. 3,85 lakhs to 64 million gallons valued at Rs. 4,19 lakhs. Rice from Burma rose from Rs. 27,77 lakhs to Rs. 49,14 lakhs, teak from Rs. 1,05 lakhs to 1,06 lakhs and cutch from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs. Imports from Burma of stick lac and fresh vegetables showed a considerable decline. Imports from Bombay of Indian cotton manufactures fell from Rs. 7,69 lakhs to Rs. 6,74 lakhs and cotton twist and yarn from Rs. 1,26 lakhs to Rs. 1,13 lakhs, but receipts of salt improved by Rs. 14 lakhs. Madras increased her supplies of raw cotton by Rs. 3 lakhs, and ground nuts by Rs. 6 lakhs; but her business in twist and yarn dropped from Rs. 1,08 lakhs to Rs. 44 lakhs and in cocoanut oil from Rs. 59 lakhs to Rs. 44 lakhs. The quantity of raw jute received from Bihar and Orissa was a little larger than in the previous year.

Imports.

337. Shipments of jute manufactures, which formed the bulk of the export coasting trade, advanced from Rs. 3,66 lakhs, to Rs. 4,27 lakhs and of gunny bags from Rs. 2,82 lakhs to Rs. 3,43 lakhs, but those of gunny cloth declined by Rs. 3 lakhs. Exports of rice rose from Rs. 1,81 lakhs to Rs. 2,03 lakhs, the bulk of which (Rs. 1,78 lakhs) was sent to Madras. Coal advanced from 936,504 tons valued at Rs. 1,57 lakhs to 1,001,071 tons valued at Rs. 1,64 lakhs. There were increases in shipments of coal to Bombay from 125,185 tons to 201,977 tons and to Madras from 245,505 tons to 331,252 tons. There were increased exports of cotton twist and yarn to Burma and of paper and paste-board to Bombay and Madras; but tea and unmanufactured tobacco were in smaller demand.

Public Works.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.

Revenue and
expenditure.

338. The revenue realized during the year amounted to Rs. 7.29 lakhs of which Rs. 6.57 lakhs were provincial.

The expenditure totalled Rs. 114.62 lakhs including about Rs. 19.42 lakhs for Establishment and Tools and Plant. Of this total, Rs. 10.58 lakhs were for Central Works, Rs. 17.75 lakhs for Provincial Works (Reserved) and Rs. 76.01 lakhs for Provincial Works (Transferred). Rupees 7.74 lakhs were expended on contribution works and Rs. 2.53 lakhs on grants-in-aid.

Central buildings.

339. At the Salt Golahs, Sulkea, a start was made in dividing up the golahs, partitions being erected in 8 out of the 23 which were to be partitioned. Additions and alterations to the Metcalfe Hall, Calcutta, vacated by the Imperial Library, were carried out to make the building suitable for use as an office for the Commissioner of Income-Tax. A pucca floor was provided in the salt compartments of the new salt golahs at Chittagong. The construction of 4 kutchha golahs in the compound of the new golahs was in progress.

Provincial
buildings.

340. Rupees 51.12 lakhs were expended under the "Transferred" head including Rs. 0.15 lakhs for cost of English stores and Rs. 5.58 lakhs under the "Reserved" head.

Education buildings accounted for Rs. 11.05 lakhs, buildings in connection with General Administration Rs. 9.35 lakhs and buildings relating to Administration of Justice, Police, Medical, Jails and other Civil works Rs. 36.30 lakhs.

Of the several buildings completed, the more important were the section buildings for the Police Department at Kalighat and Ballygunge; residences for the Superintendents of Police at Asansol and Krishnagar; an Out-patient Maternity Department building at the Medical College, Calcutta; Agricultural Farm buildings at Berhampore, Khudsole and Goalchamut; Judge's residence and Civil Court buildings at Bogra; Hindu and Muhammadan hostels attached to Rajshahi College; Subdivisional buildings at Ramgarh; a Sub-Jail and a Guru-Training School at Patuakhali; a jail hospital at Faridpur; and an office for the Executive Engineer, Bakarganj Division, at Barisal.

The construction of a large number of Police Investigating Centres, barracks, etc., was in progress throughout the Presidency and some of the buildings were completed. At Writers' Buildings, Calcutta, further additions and alterations and special repairs were carried out for providing accommodation for and re-arrangement of various offices located therein. The Fenwick Bazar Thana building, formerly used as Headquarters of the Public Vehicles Department, was converted into Headquarters for the Mounted Police. The construction of the Police section house at Bhowanipore, the David Hare Training School at Ballygunge, the Islamia College, Calcutta, the Nurses' Quarters at Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, a boiler house at Government Research Tannery, Tangra, the Guru-Training Schools at Midnapore and Suri, the Agricultural Farm buildings at Dinajpur, the Munsiffi at PEROJPUR and Gopalganj, the Veterinary Hospital at Dacca and the Bengal Land Survey School at Mainamati were in progress. A plot of land was acquired for the proposed Muchipara Police Section House. Considerable progress was made towards the reconstruction of the Civil Station at Alipur Duars.

341. The total expenditure on communications during the year under review was Rs. 28,21,446 out of which Rs. 89,680 was spent by the Government of India on Central Communications.

Communications.

(The total length of metalled roads in the Province rose from 3,346 to 3,363 miles, and the length of unmetalled roads from 33,472 to 33,708 miles.) These figures include 2,449 miles of metalled and 32,992 miles of unmetalled roads maintained by district and local funds, but exclude roads maintained by municipalities.

The improvement of the Calcutta Maidan roads to make them more suitable for modern traffic conditions was continued, and several roads were resurfaced with pitch and tar macadam.

Special repairs to the roads in the Darjeeling Division were practically completed during the year, and five wooden bridges were

dismantled and replaced by steel and concrete bridges capable of carrying a 10-ton steam road roller.

The reconstruction of the Balasun Bridge on the 5th mile of the Matigara Naxalbari Road was nearly completed. The improvement of the approach road to the Ghum Sukia Road at Ghum Station was begun and finished during the year.

In the Duars of the Jalpaiguri district two roads, *viz.*, (1) from Dalgaon to Lankapara and (2) from Lataguri to Mainaguri were completed and opened to traffic. The construction of a third road from Mainaguri to Dhupguri was in progress.

Three new bridges were completed, and several were under construction during the year.

As regards repairs, 11 wooden bridges were replaced by permanent structures, and work was in progress on 8 more.

Arboricultural operations along roads were carried out as far as funds permitted.

Calcutta Tramway Service.

342. A committee was appointed to examine the general working of the Calcutta Tramways Company and to advise Government on certain points with regard to the improvement of the Tramway Service in Calcutta.

Establishment—Redistribution of charges.

343. The divisional charges in the Central Circle were reconstituted with effect from 15th July 1924. The Burdwan Division now comprises the Hooghly, Burdwan, Asansol and Bankura subdivisions, while the Hijli Division (with its headquarters moved from Kharagpur to Calcutta) comprises the Kharagpur, Midnapore, Krishnagar and Berhampore subdivisions.

Execution of building works through the agency of local bodies.

344. The recommendations of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee, 1923, for the transfer of public works to local bodies and the opinions of district boards and Commissioners of Divisions were carefully considered by Government, with the result that with one exception the proposals contained in paragraphs 338 to 343 of the Committee's report were not accepted. The proposal in paragraph 342 that petty repairs to Government buildings should be carried out by the departments concerned was accepted, subject for the present to a limit of Rs. 500 for any one building in any one year.

Government incidentally decided that cheaper buildings should be designed and constructed by the Public Works Department to a lower specification than that at present in force and that, with the exception of the more important buildings in Calcutta and at the headquarters of districts, the majority of Government buildings should be constructed of less expensive materials and with a stricter regard to economy in the matter of accommodation.

345. The pay and pensions of the members of the Indian Service of Engineers were revised with effect from 1st April 1924 as a result of the recommendations of the Lee Commission. The main feature of the scheme was that the technical pay of Rs. 75 per mensem which was granted to certain members of the Service (practically European) on the ground of superior professional qualification obtainable in the United Kingdom was merged into the basic pay of the service thereby benefiting the Indian College Engineers to the extent of Rs. 75 per mensem. At the same time the overseas pay was raised by Rs. 50 per mensem from the 8th year of service onwards and ordered to be drawn in sterling.

The Chief and Superintending Engineers of non-Asiatic domicile who were not allowed overseas pay previous to 1st April 1924, were permitted to draw it at the fixed rate of £13-6-8.

Railways.

346. All the important lines of railway in this Province are under the direct control of the Government of India. The following light railways are, however, in some respects subject to the control of the Government of Bengal:—

Administration.

	Gauge.	Length in miles.
	Ft. ins.	
1. Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway ..	2 0	51·07
2. Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarkeswar to Tribeni).	2 6	33·27
3. Howrah-Amta Light Railway ..	2 0	43·87
4. Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway ..	2 0	19·75
5. Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway ..	2 6	52·24
6. Jessore-Jhenidah Railway ..	2 6	36·75
Total ..		<u>236·95</u>

347. In the year under review no new lines of railway were opened to traffic. The mileage open on 31st March 1925 was, therefore, the same as last year, *viz.*, 3,281·17 miles.

Mileage.

348. The Eastern Bengal Railway broad gauge was extended to Parbatipur and the metre gauge track was dismantled. The extension from Parbatipur to Siliguri was also sanctioned.

Broad gauge
extension to
Siliguri.

349. To increase the capacity of the Section of the East Indian Railway from Burdwan to the junction with the loop line at Khana, the Up and Down slow lines were opened to passenger traffic.

East Indian
Railway.

350. The Railway Board have decided to defer consideration of the Vishnupur-Santragachi project for a few years.

Vishnupur-
Santragachi
Railway.

**Faridpur-
Bhanga Railway.**

351. In reply to an enquiry, the Railway Board were informed that neither the District Board of Faridpur nor the Government of Bengal were prepared to guarantee them against loss upon working of the proposed Faridpur-Bhanga Railway. The project has accordingly been dropped for the present.

**Navaran-
Satkhira
Railway.**

352. In view of the fact that the proposed broad gauge railway from Navaran to Satkhira was not likely to be remunerative, the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, enquired whether the Government of Bengal were prepared to give a guarantee against loss in working. In reply he was informed that neither the District Board of Khulna nor the Government of Bengal were in a position to give the required guarantee.

**Dacca Section of
the Eastern
Bengal Railway.**

353. The proposal to transfer the Dacca Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway to the Assam Bengal Railway was finally negatived by the Secretary of State for India in Council. As this decision was opposed to the opinion of those who were primarily concerned, the Government of India were asked to reconsider the question. In reply this Government was informed that the question could not be reopened as the reasons adduced in favour of the transfer did not appear to the Government of India to be sound.

**Dacca-Aricha
Railway.**

354. A traffic survey of the proposed Dacca-Aricha Railway was sanctioned by the Railway Board.

**Ishurdi-Pabna-
Sadhuganj
Railway.**

355. At the request of this Government, the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, was asked by the Railway Board to make a complete reinvestigation into the probable earnings and working expenses of the proposed Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway.

Irrigation Department.

CANALS (IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION).

[Administration Report of the Irrigation Department for the year 1924-25.]

**Constitution of
the Department.**

356. The Rajshahi subdivision with headquarters at Rampur Boalia, was opened for the purpose of taking over irrigation works formerly in the Rajshahi Division of the Public Works Department and for supervising the work of training the Ganges and keeping under observation the area which suffered during the floods of 1918 and 1922 in Northern Bengal. Some of the works taken over had previously been classified under the head "Miscellaneous Public Improvements" which has now been abolished under orders of the Government of India. The Jangipur subdivision was closed and the work south of the river transferred to the Berhampore subdivision. In the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Murshidabad,

certain irrigation schemes were under investigation. Some of these will be carried out under either the Irrigation Act III of 1876, the Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act VI of 1920 or through the agency of co-operative credit societies. For the efficient supervision of these works the Bankura and Birbhum subdivisions were formed during the year, the former under the Cossye Division and the latter under the Damodar Division.

357. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1924:—

Irrigation.

	Midnapore Canal.			Eden Canal.		
	Kharif (including hot weather).	Rabi.	Total	Kharif (including hot weather.)	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1924.	77,667	1,454	79,121	20,558	461	21,019
For 1924 25 ..	76,235	Nil.	76,235	20,464	546	21,010

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

358. The expenditure on embankment and drainage works, including charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant, was Rs. 12,00,573 against Rs. 21,00,221 in 1923-24. The large difference is due to the fact that the preceding year's expenditure was inflated by the write-back of a large amount spent in previous years on the four anti-malarial works: (1) Amta, (2) Nowi Sunthi, (3) Arool Bhil and (4) Jaboona.

Expenditure.

359. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government during the year was 1,298 miles and 3,360 feet, which is the same as in the previous year. There were no additions or abandonments during the year.

**Length of
embankments.**

360. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Burrojola drainage works in the Howrah district were maintained during the year at a cost of Rs. 18,078 against Rs. 24,192 in the previous year. The maintenance and repairs of the works in connection with the drainage of Berhampore town and flushing of the Bishnupur Bhil in the Nadia Rivers Division was done at a cost of Rs. 1,294 against Rs. 1,659 in the preceding year. An expenditure of Rs. 804 was incurred for the maintenance of the Gobra Nala and removal of hyacinth weeds against Rs. 671 of the previous year.

**Works carried
out under the—
(a) Bengal
Drainage Act VI
of 1880.**

(b) Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.
(c) Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882.

361. The Magrahat drainage scheme which was carried out under the Sanitary Drainage Act was maintained at a cost of Rs. 17,495 against Rs. 16,783 of the previous year.

362. The Churial drainage works were maintained in efficient working order at a cost of Rs. 3,154 against an expenditure of Rs. 642 in the previous year.

The transactions of the year are briefly described in the following summary which is divided for convenience into Circles of Superintendence:—

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS (UNPRODUCTIVE).

Midnapore Canal.

Capital Outlay. 363. No capital expenditure was incurred on the Canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year was Rs. 83,10,888.

Rainfall. 364. The rainfall at Midnapore was 50·17 inches as compared with 44·24 inches in the previous year.

Irrigation. 365. The area irrigated from the Canal was 76,235 acres against 72,412 acres in the previous year. The cash realisation on account of water rates was Rs. 1,70,729 of which Rs. 1,035 was remitted against Rs. 1,42,236 and Rs. 2,885, respectively, of the previous year. The work of assessment and collection was on the whole satisfactory, the percentage of collection being 97·36 against 97·06 in the preceding year.

Navigation. 366. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 65,832 as compared with Rs. 44,922 during the year 1923-24. The increase in collection is due to enhanced rates of tolls.

Financial results. 367. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 2,68,219 and Rs. 1,83,835, respectively, against Rs. 2,21,857 and Rs. 2,21,314, respectively, in the previous year. The net revenue of the year was Rs. 84,384 against Rs. 543 only in the preceding year.

The expenditure under Maintenance and Repairs was Rs. 60,876 against Rs. 57,682 of the previous year.

MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Eden Canal. 368. The area irrigated from the canal during the year was 21,010 acres as compared with 20,324 and 21,112 respectively in the

two preceding years. The gross revenue derived was Rs. 35,226 as compared with Rs. 28,167 of the preceding year.

The expenditure on working expenses amounted to Rs. 34,112 as compared with Rs. 42,271 of the preceding year.

IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN WESTERN BENGAL.

369. The revised project for the Damodar Canal in the Burdwan district was under re-examination during the year. In the Midnapore district surveys in connection with the Jhargram, Dhangara, Boital and Ausbandi projects were in progress. In the district of Bankura, the Beraï and several smaller schemes were under investigation. The construction of the Salbundh and Kukrajore schemes was in progress. In the Birbhum district, the More, Bansloi Bakerswar, and other schemes were under investigation. The Dawki-Dadpur, Bahira and Jamrud sluice schemes were completed. The object of these works is the extension of irrigation in Western Bengal which is more liable to famine than other parts of the province.

MAJOR NAVIGATION WORKS (UNPRODUCTIVE).

370. There was no outlay chargeable to the capital account of the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) amounted to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 1,30,365 and Rs. 17,703, respectively, as against Rs. 86,268 and Rs. 25,565, respectively, in 1923-24. The net balance of revenue for the year was Rs. 1,12,662 as against Rs. 60,703, in the preceding year. The increase is due to enhancement of tolls and the canal paid all interest charges during the year.

Hijli Tidal
Canal.

MINOR NAVIGATION WORKS.

371. This canal lies partly in the Bengal Presidency (54·5 miles) and partly in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, each Government dealing with the length lying within its territorial limits. The receipts and working expenses of the portion in Bengal were Rs. 37,087 and Rs. 15,123, respectively, as against Rs. 22,602 and Rs. 19,844, respectively, in the previous year. The balance of net revenue during the year was Rs. 21,964 against Rs. 2,758 only in the preceding year. The increase here is also principally owing to enhanced tollage rates.

Orissa Coast
Canal.

372. This *khal* has been leased out for six years from 15th June 1921 to 14th June 1927. at a rental of Rs. 2,000 on the

Gaighatta and
Buxi Khal.

condition that the lessees do all silt clearance at their own cost and maintain the *khal* at a stipulated bed-level.

Nadia Rivers.

373. The Nadia Rivers having been thrown open to free navigation from 1st September 1923, there were no navigation receipts during the year. The maintenance charges of the year amounted to Rs. 26,752.

Bhagirathi River.

374. In the Upper Bhagirathi through boat traffic was maintained during the year up to November 1924 and small boat traffic up to January 1925. On the Lower Bhagirathi boat traffic was maintained throughout the year from Katwa to Nadia and downwards. The steamer services of the Calcutta Steam Navigation Company between Calcutta, Kalna and Nadia, were maintained throughout the year. In the middle and Lower Bhagirathi 7 shoals with an aggregate length of 15,500 feet were trained during the year by bandalling against 6 shoals with an aggregate length of 12,800 feet in the previous year.

Ganges River from Rajmahal to Goalundo.

375. During the year under report the conservancy operations of the river Ganges from Rajmahal to Goalundo continued to be carried out departmentally. Captain Neice of the Steamer Companies was employed to execute the work on behalf of Government under the direct supervision of the Executive Engineer, Nadia Rivers Division. Nine shoals were trained against 10 of the previous year, 5 of these being new shoals. The total expenditure incurred on the work was Rs. 17,700 against Rs. 18,714 of the previous year.

Discharge observations.

376. Observations were taken at 4 stations, *viz.*, 2 on the Bhagirathi, 1 on the Mathabhanga and 1 on the Hooghly, up to end of March 1925, to ascertain the discharges of the Bhagirathi and its feeder channels, the Bhairab, Jalangi and Mathabhanga. The total expenditure incurred on these observations was Rs. 4,570 against Rs. 4,855 of the previous year.

The Gorai River.

377. A survey was made of the Ganges 5 miles above and below the entrance of the Gorai. Heavy erosion of the right bank of the Ganges took place below the entrance of the Gorai. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 548 against Rs. 685 of the previous year.

Ganges River at Rampur-Boalia.

378. A few bandals were used at Rampur Boalia during the year to maintain the channel leading to the town.

Surveys and investigations.

379. Survey and investigation of the area east of the Laltakuri abandoned embankment were completed. Sections of the Gobra Nala were taken and a preliminary survey was made between the Kalkali river and the nala through the Bhalko Bhil. Preliminary investigation into the Kalantar area was completed. A contour

survey of the flooded area between Tildanga and Dhulian stations, surveys of the Bhairab Jalangi entrance and the Mathabhanga entrance, preliminary investigations in the tract between the Bhairab and Mathabhanga rivers and elsewhere were completed during the year.

380. There were no heavy floods during the year as the rainfall was nowhere excessive. Only two moderately high floods occurred on the Cossye River. There were no breaches in the Cossye or other embankments.

River floods
breaches, etc.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

MINOR NAVIGATION WORKS.

381. With effect from the year under review, the accounts of the Sundarbans Steamer Route which were formerly included in those of the Calcutta and Eastern Canals have been shown as a separate item in the Accountant-General's accounts. Under Capital Account of the Calcutta and Eastern Canals an expenditure of Rs. 39,297 (direct) during the year is shown inclusive of a credit of Rs. 39,485 on account of the hire of the dredgers *Foyers* and *Alexandra* and other receipts. The navigation receipts from the Calcutta and Eastern Canals during the year amounted to Rs. 4,84,206 against Rs. 4,44,301 in the previous year inclusive of receipts from Sundarbans Steamer Route, the increase being due to higher rates of tolls. The total gross receipts amounted to Rs. 5,07,958 and the working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 8,27,344, the result showing a deficit of Rs. 3,19,386 against a deficit of Rs. 1,94,516 in the previous year. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Sundarbans Steamer Route alone during the year were Rs. 55,300 and Rs. 45,475, respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 9,825 only. The more important items on which expenditure was increased under the revenue account of the canals during the year are noted below :

Calcutta and
Eastern Canals.

Extensions and Improvements.

	Rs.
(1) Reconstruction of the Dum Dum Bridge (amount paid to the Calcutta Improvement Trust on account of the Government share of the work)	1,50,000
(2) Excavating a drinking water tank at Dhappa	8,000
(3) Construction of a lock and sluice with diversion channel at the mouth of the Kaorapukur Khal	57,634

Maintenance and Repairs.

	Rs.
(1) Maintenance of canals	1,29,196
(2) Working dredgers and launches	24,206
(3) Upkeep of marks and buoys in the Sundarbans Steamer Route	20,172
(4) Dredging shoals in the Attarabanka River	9,597
(5) Silt clearance of Tolly's Nala	16,880
(6) Repairs to <i>Foyers</i> and <i>Alexandra</i> dredgers, tugs and coal barges	1,21,684

The construction of the Dum Dum Bridge over the Circular Canal through the agency of the Calcutta Improvement Trust was in progress and arrangements were made for undertaking the reconstruction of the Chitpur, Maniktola, Baliaghatta, Narkeldanga, Tollygunge and Garia bridges which were old and are considered unfit for up-to-date traffic.

Madaripore Bhil Route.

382. The expenditure during the year (direct charges) debitable to the capital account of the route was Rs. 4,28,950 of which Rs. 3,50,740 represents outlay on works. The sum was chiefly spent on dredging the Lower Kumar River between Takerhat and Charmaguria, a length of 13 miles. A sum of Rs. 3,30,000 was spent on the work during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of 1924-25 amounted to Rs. 71,53,902 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 75,57,056.

The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 3,44,752 and Rs. 2,08,061, respectively, against Rs. 2,65,247 and Rs. 45,169 in the year 1923-24. The increase in receipts is due to higher rate of tolls.

Conservancy of the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers.

383. Bandalling works were carried out as usual, in the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers and a sum of Rs. 17,302 was spent on the work. The rivers were navigable for boats throughout the year. In the Dhaleswari 18 shoals were trained by this Department and 5 from the entrance of the Boraitali Channel up to Uldabanal were trained under the supervision of the Steamer Company at a cost of Rs. 3,000. The Buriganga was trained at the entrance only. The spurs at the off-take of Ati Khal were maintained during the year at a cost of Rs. 1,408. The *khal* remained navigable for steamers during the flood season.

Improvement of the Baidyadhari River.

384. A sum of Rs. 5,991 was spent on Baidyadhari spill operations. The total expenditure up to date is Rs. 6,61,936 against the sanctioned estimate amounting to Rs. 8,05,516. A sum of Rs. 84,966 was spent on dredging the river.

Anti-malarial Works.

385. The Arapanch drainage scheme was completed and a sum of Rs. 20,012 was spent on it. The total expenditure up to

the end of the year amounted to Rs. 1,56,451. Steps were taken during the year with a view to taking up the remaining portions of the Nowi-Sunthi (Nowi and Ichapur Khals) and Arool Bhil schemes. These are treated as Government works and will be maintained at Government cost, although the District Board will contribute the estimated cost of completion in each case.

386. The report of the Committee appointed to consider the measures to be taken to conduct and control the work of the Hydro-Electric Survey in Bengal was published. The Committee were of opinion that the amount of power available was too small for the distance it had to be transmitted.

**Hydro-Electric
Survey.**

387. There is little of importance to record under this head during the year. The rainfall was normal and there were no floods except in the Eastern rivers and the Madaripur Bhil Route where the embankment was much damaged by overtopping.

**River floods,
breaches, etc.**

388. Owing to financial stringency this work was held in abeyance during the year. No new land was acquired but a sum of Rs. 76,583 was paid during the year on account of the enhancement of awards by the Special Land Acquisition Judge. A sum of Rs. 12,835 was spent on repairing and laying up the dredger *Ronaldshay* and also for meeting a part of the cost of its purchase. The expenditure on general upkeep of works during the year, including payment of municipal taxes for the acquired buildings, amounted to Rs. 3,398. A sum of Rs. 4,000 was spent on meeting the "Loss on stock" materials. The total revenue realised during the year from acquired lands and houses at Baranagar, Kristipur Kulti and miscellaneous sources was Rs. 16,875. The total expenditure on the project up to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 68,06,473 (direct). The deterioration of the Sundarbans Steamer Route continues and it is apparent that the construction of the Grand Trunk Canal is the only solution of the growing difficulty caused by the deterioration of this route. The execution of the project is absolutely necessary to ensure a satisfactory navigable connection between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal and Assam for inland steam vessels.

**Grand Trunk
Canal Project.**

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.**A.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.**

389. The revenue for the year from Imperial heads amounted to 28.51 crores against 26.37 crores of the previous year.

The details are shown in the statement below :—

Major Heads.	1923-24.	1924-25.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Customs ..	14,90,85,978	17,41,57,124	2,50,71,146	....
II.—Taxes on Income ..	6,03,19,439	5,54,73,876	....	48,45,563
III.—Salt ..	1,81,61,523	2,35,90,897	54,29,374	....
IV.—Opium ..	3,29,64,621	2,86,97,675	....	42,66,946
X.—Tributes from Indian States.	67,701	60,649	....	7,052
XVI.—Interest ..	11,72,616	11,80,880	8,264	....
XX.—Ports and Pilotage	13,19,386	15,42,465	2,23,079	....
XXVI.—Miscellaneous Departments.	73,319	70,150	....	3,169
XXVII.—Currency ..	11,786	14,969	3,183	....
XXX.—Civil Works ..	2,47,910	72,548	....	1,75,362
XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	2,17,047	2,42,352	25,305	....
XXXIV.—Stationery and Printing.	63,368	37,345	....	26,023
XXXV.—Miscellaneous ..	36,498	15,005	....	21,493
XXXIX.—Contributions and Assignments to the Central Government by Provincial Governments.	....	....	....	....
XL.—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.	12,008	17,250	5,242	....
Total Revenue ..	26,37,53,200	28,51,73,185	3,07,65,593	93,45,608
			Net increase ..	3,14,19,985

The important variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes :—

Customs.—The increase is due to favourable trade conditions coupled with better collections on account of “Protective Special Duties” and “Duties on Government Stores”.

Taxes on Income.—The comparative decrease in the outstandings on 1st April 1924, mainly accounts for the decrease in collections.

Salt.—The increase is chiefly due to the large arrear duty outstanding on the 1st April 1924 under the credit system.

Opium.—The decrease is due to the sale at public auctions of a smaller number of chests.

Ports and Pilotage.—The increase is attributable to larger pilotage receipts.

Civil Works.—The fall in revenue is chiefly due to the non-realization of rent for premises No. 3, Koilaghat Street, which were sold during the year to the Eastern Bengal Railway.

Receipts in aid of Superannuation.—Larger recoveries towards the cost of pensions paid to pensioners of other Governments mainly accounts for the increase.

Stationery and Printing.—The decrease is due to the fact that the Daily and Export Lists of the Calcutta Custom House are now cyclostyled instead of printed.

Miscellaneous.—Smaller lapse of unclaimed deposits mainly accounts for the fall in revenue.

The following statement shows the Central expenditure in 1924-25 as compared with that of 1923-24:—

Major Heads.	1923-24.	1924-25.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Customs ..	20,87,354	22,52,931	1,65,577	....
2.—Taxes on Income ..	6,59,683	8,22,175	1,62,492	....
3.—Salt ..	3,04,466	3,22,357	17,891	....
4.—Opium ..	20,089	24,892	....	1,197
19.—Interest on ordinary debt	3,08,633	3,04,314	55,681	....
20.—Interest on other obligations	7,23,552	15,47,653	8,24,101	....
22.—General Administration ..	1,13,051	....	....	1,13,051
23.—Audit ..	6,61,484	6,66,428	4,944	....
24.—Administration of Justice	1,34,692	43,418	....	91,274
26.—Police ..	....	1,42,200	1,42,200	....
27.—Ports and Pilotage ..	15,04,073	16,31,121	1,26,448	....
28.—Ecclesiastical ..	2,09,445	1,88,653	....	20,792
29.—Political ..	10,484	81,046	61,562	....
33.—Public Health ..	2,847	3,173	326	....
36.—Aviation ..	....	....	....	....
37.—Miscellaneous Departments	71,437	67,319	....	4,118
38.—Currency ..	47,097	56,289	9,192	....
41.—Civil Works ..	8,57,083	10,08,712	1,51,629	....
44.—Territorial and Political	5,65,006	6,33,365	68,359	....
Pensions.	....	....	....	....
45.—Superannuation Allowances	86,213	2,14,888	3,01,101	....
and Pensions.	....	....	....	....
46.—Stationery and Printing ..	1,50,422	32,464	....	1,17,958
47.—Miscellaneous ..	45,140	6,814	....	38,326
52.—Miscellaneous Adjustments	15,541	1,01,968	1,76,427	....
between the Central and	....	....	....	....
Provincial Governments.	....	....	....	....
Total Expenditure ..	84,20,966	1,03,02,180	22,07,930	3,86,716
			Net Increase ..	18,81,214

The main fluctuations are explained as follows:—

Customs.—Larger expenditure on account of additional preventive and appraising establishment coupled with annual increments of pay, allowances and rewards mainly account for the increase.

Taxes on Income.—The increase is due to the reorganisation of the department.

Interest on ordinary debt.—The increase is partly due to larger payment of interest on bonds and partly to smaller deductions on

account of interest on loans to the Provincial Government owing to repayment of instalments.

Interest on other obligations.—The increase is more apparent than real, as a sum of Rs. 7,60,434 has since been written back by Journal entry, the balance of the increase being mainly due to the growth of expenditure on account of interest on the General Provident Fund.

General Administration and Administration of Justice.—Non-adjustment in the accounts for 1924-25 explains the decrease under both these heads.

Police.—The increase is due to non-adjustment on account of the cost of police guards for the Imperial buildings in Calcutta for 1923-24.

Ports and Pilotage.—The increase is partly due to the reconditioning of certain vessels and partly to larger expenditure on account of pilots.

Political.—The increase is chiefly due to larger expenditure on allowances to prisoners under Regulation III and the Bengal Ordinance.

Civil Works.—The growth in expenditure is due to the execution during the year of a large number of major works.

Territorial and Political Pensions.—Payment of increased pensions and arrears to the descendants of the late King of Oudh is responsible for the increase.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.—The increase is attributable to adjustments in the Bengal books of pensions hitherto paid by the Accountant-General, Central Revenue.

Stationery and Printing.—The decrease is due to non-adjustment in the account for 1924-25.

Miscellaneous.—The decrease is chiefly due to adjustment of *sayer* compensation as provincial with effect from the year under report.

Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments.—The increase is due to the payment to the Government of Bengal of—

- (a) sale proceeds of impressed and stamp papers for enrolment certificates of Vakils for the three years ending 1923-24, and
- (b) cost of police guards supplied for the Imperial buildings in Calcutta during 1923-24.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal, 1924-25.]

390. The gross revenue realised at Calcutta amounted to Rs. 20,11 lakhs against Rs. 16,33 lakhs in the previous year showing an increase of Rs. 378 lakhs. Import duty collections increased by 29 per cent. from Rs. 12,17 lakhs to Rs. 15,73 lakhs, which is partly accounted for by the imposition of duty on Government stores from the 1st April 1924, and by the protective rates of duty on imports of certain manufactures of iron and steel from the 13th June 1924. Import refunds and drawbacks decreased by about Rs. 13 lakhs. The total collection of export duty of Rs. 4,38 lakhs, more than 75 per cent. of which was from jute, was about 22 lakhs greater than in the previous year.

Customs
revenues.

391. The net revenue of the Calcutta Customs House increased from Rs. 15,85,74,161 to Rs. 19,75,63,133 and that of the port of Chittagong decreased from Rs. 52.85 lakhs to Rs. 49.47 lakhs.

Net revenue.

392. The Appraising Department dealt with 850 cases as against 888 in the previous year under the Act. Extra duty and penalties collected were Rs. 99,807 and Rs. 36,834 as against Rs. 1,48,950 and Rs. 85,532 in the previous year. The number of notices issued under section 32 of the Act was 60 against 49 and in 44 of these cases the goods were taken over by Government. The number of cases dealt with in the port of Chittagong under the Act was 42 and penalties amounting to Rs. 1,651 were realised as compared with 37 cases with penalties of Rs. 831 in 1923-24.

Cases under the
Sea Customs Act.

393. There were 570 cases of infringement of the provisions of the Indian Merchandise Act during the financial year 1924-25 against 421 cases in the previous year, the number of cases relating to false trade description increasing from 277 to 442. Penalties amounting to Rs. 5,439 were collected. There were no cases under this Act in the port of Chittagong.

Cases under the
Indian
Merchandise
Marks Act.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report, 1924-25.]

394. The number of merchants who availed themselves of the credit system dropped from 112 to 108. The amount of duty outstanding for adjustment for the end of the year was Rs. 76,57,868, as compared with Rs. 1,52,91,604 at the close of 1923-24.

Salt credit
system.

395. The total imports into Calcutta and Chittagong increased by 49 and 4 per cent., respectively. The importation from the United Kingdom, Hamburg, Port Said, Aden and Bombay showed a marked increase. There were also imports of 110,080 and

Imports.

578,635 maunds from Tunis and French Somaliland (D. Jibouti), respectively, against nil in 1923-24. In Chittagong there was an increase of Port Said salt but a decrease of Aden salt.

**Consumption
and prices.**

396. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption during the year was 6,223,494 maunds against 4,313,408 maunds in 1923-24. The average wholesale price per maund of salt, inclusive of duty, was 13 annas and 10 pies lower than in the previous year. The average wholesale price of salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 82, the same as in the previous year, while in Chittagong it fell from Rs. 85 to Rs. 79. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds was Rs. 92 as compared with Rs. 89 in the previous year.

Financial results.

397. As compared with the preceding year the receipts of the Department showed an increase of Rs. 66,71,821 or 44·4 per cent. The total charges also increased by Rs. 3,951 or about 7 per cent. The increase in the receipts occurred mostly under the head "Import duty on salt".

INCOME-TAX.

[Annual Report and Returns of the Income Tax Department, Bengal for 1924-25.]

398. No addition was made to the number of Income Tax Ranges and Districts at the beginning of 1924-25 and work in 13, out of 26 Districts outside Calcutta, continued to be done by the Executive Officers of this Government. There was no marked recovery in trade during 1923-24, the income from which formed the basis of the assessments made in 1924-25, although there was a steady development on sound and healthy lines towards more stable economic conditions. ✓ The most noteworthy economic influence on the working of the Department apart from general trade conditions was an anti-usury movement in some parts of East Bengal among the Muhammadans and Namasudras against money-lenders, which resulted in the reduction of the rates of interest in some places and the migration of debtors from others with resultant loss of capital by the money-lenders. ✓ The figures of assessed income are as follows:—

	Rs.		
Standard figure, i.e., assessed income in 1920-21 as adjusted up to 31st March 1925	62,41,45,909
Assessed income in 1921-22	(Figures not available).
Assessed income in 1922-23	47,55,84,223
Assessed income in 1923-24	49,65,89,966
Assessed income in 1924-25	47,13,61,347

In last year's report the figure for 1923-24 was wrongly given as Rs. 58,36,72,172. Other details and figures will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income Tax to the Central Board of Revenue.

B.—Revenue and Finance other than Central—Provincial Finance.

Statement of Provincial Receipts—Actuals.

399. The following statement shows the revenue collected in Bengal during 1924-25 as compared with those of 1923-24:—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals. 1923-24.	Actuals 1924-25.
	Rs.	Rs.
V.—Land Revenue	3,13,01,640	3,10,81,272
VI.—Excise	2,09,85,372	2,15,07,295
VII.—Stamps	3,16,74,735	3,35,90,006
VIII.—Forest	22,61,516	24,75,529
IX.—Registration	24,48,870	25,84,520
IX A.—Scheduled taxes	23,72,777	21,51,911
XII.—Subsidized Companies	98,538	93,439
XIII.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept (not).	1,31,044	97,988
XIV.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which no capital accounts are kept.	2,12,667	2,48,467
XVI.—Interest	3,11,880	3,54,969
XVII.—Administration of Justice	13,30,815	13,31,171
XVIII.—Jails and Convict Settlements	13,37,852	12,61,473
XIX.—Police	5,33,421	6,64,875
XX.—Ports and Pilotage	34,926	49,622
XXI.—Education	10,20,702	11,20,280
XXII.—Medical	7,61,000	6,06,399
XXIII.—Public Health	6,64,877	46,826
XXIV.—Agriculture	3,35,724	2,79,236
XXV.—Industries	5,84,267	6,66,024
XXVI.—Miscellaneous Departments	73,994	43,351
XXX.—Civil Works	5,84,820	6,57,014
XXXII.—Transfers from Famine Insurance Fund.	....	....
XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	3,35,796	6,74,052
XXXIV.—Stationery and Printing	3,09,990	1,43,685
XXXV.—Miscellaneous	15,96,837	12,45,561
XXXIX A.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.	15,541	1,91,968
XL.—Extraordinary Receipts .. .. .	....	....
Total Revenue	10,13,28,601	10,31,64,933

Statement of Provincial Expenditure—Actuals.

400. The statement below shows the charges on account of Provincial Services for 1924-25 as compared with those of 1923-24 :—

Expenditure.	Actuals 1923-24.	Actuals, 1924-25.
	Rs.	Rs.
5.—Land Revenue	28,23,416	30,91,227
6.—Excise	13,16,849	12,93,505
7.—Stamps	10,30,445	9,47,542
8.—Forests	12,68,297	14,27,503
9.—Registration	17,79,126	18,08,138
9A.—Scheduled taxes	15,781	15,000
14.—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept.	17,16,150	17,53,565
15.—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue.	19,06,202	13,22,327
15(1).—Other revenue expenditure financed from famine insurance grant.	....	....
16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation and Drainage works.	....	....
A.—Financed from famine insurance grants.	....	....
B.—Financed from ordinary revenue ..	18,46,068	3,76,481
19.—Interest on ordinary debt	— 6,31,967	— 6,94,961
22.—General Administration	1,16,52,706	1,12,60,585
24.—Administration of Justice	1,06,78,074	1,06,86,896
25.—Jails and Convict Settlements	32,41,514	32,06,161
26.—Police	1,76,91,580	1,79,38,501
27.—Ports and Pilotage	1,76,990	7,59,908
30.—Scientific Department	31,996	25,010
31.—Education	1,23,13,991	1,20,98,022
32.—Medical	49,32,728	55,37,460
33.—Public Health	23,94,441	28,34,379
34.—Agriculture	18,98,704	18,00,267
35.—Industries	9,59,473	9,33,972
37.—Miscellaneous Departments	2,32,740	4,51,559
41.—Civil Works	92,97,782	95,52,840
43.—Famine Relief and Insurance	2,00,000	2,00,000
45.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	48,48,913	50,65,617
46.—Stationery and Printing	19,58,979	15,48,408
47.—Miscellaneous	3,54,697	2,46,064
51.—Contributions to the Central Government by Provincial Governments.	....	....
52.—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.	12,008	17,250
Irrigation and other capital not charged to revenue.	6,22,320	....
Expenditure in England	24,81,611	22,21,700
GRAND TOTAL	9,78,06,974	9,76,64,966

The principal variations under Provincial Receipts are explained as follows :—

Land Revenue.—The decrease was mainly due to smaller recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement charges.

Excise and Stamps.—The increases under those heads are accounted for, respectively, by larger receipts from the sale of toddy and drugs and by an increase in the sale of non-judicial stamps.

Forest.—The increase is mainly due to better sales of forest produce in the Sundarbans.

Scheduled taxes.—The fall in the collections from “ Betting Tax ” mainly accounts for the decrease.

Irrigation, Navigation and Embankment works for which no capital accounts are kept.—The increase is due to larger recoveries on account of land benefited by embankments and on account of larger navigation receipts from the Orissa Coast Canal.

Interest.—Larger recoveries of interest on loans to municipalities and district boards and on loans under the Agricultural Loans Act chiefly account for the increase.

Jails and Convict Settlements.—A smaller sale of quinine packets accounts for the decrease in revenue.

Police.—The increase is due partly to larger receipts under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act and the Calcutta Hackney Carriage Act and partly to the payment by the Government of India of the cost of police guards supplied for the Imperial buildings in Calcutta.

Education.—The increase is due to larger collections of fees from Government Art Colleges and larger receipts from other sources.

Medical.—The decrease is partly due to smaller hospital receipts and partly to the non-payment by the Mymensingh District Board of a contribution for the establishment of a medical school in that district.

Public Health.—Absence of the re-adjustments of contributions made to district boards in connection with the Amta, Nowi-Sunthi and Jaboona projects in 1923-24 accounts for the decrease in expenditure.

Agriculture.—Smaller veterinary receipts mainly account for the decrease in revenue.

Industries.—Larger receipts from the sale of cinchona febrifuge mainly account for the growth of revenue.

Miscellaneous Departments.—Smaller receipts in connection with the British Empire Exhibition account for the fall in revenue.

Civil Works.—The increase is partly due to larger receipts from the sale of land acquired for the Kalighat Police Station and partly to the recovery of the amount paid to a certain contractor on account of the stoppage of the Mymensingh Partition Scheme.

Receipts in aid of superannuation.—Larger recoveries towards the cost of pensions relating to other Governments account for the increase.

Stationery and Printing.—Smaller recoveries on account of printing work done for other Governments account for the decrease.

Miscellaneous.—The fall is chiefly due to smaller credits on account of “unclaimed or lapsed deposits” and “other fees and forfeitures” as well as to larger refunds.

The principal variations under Provincial Expenditure are explained below :—

Land Revenue.—The increase is partly due to smaller recoveries on account of Land Acquisition Establishment and partly to larger outlay on agricultural and sanitary improvements in Government estates.

Stamps.—The decrease is due to a smaller supply of stamps from the Central Store accounts.

Forest.—The increase is due to larger expenditure on conservancy and works.

Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue.—Expenditure on the Arool Bhil, Jaboona, Amta, and the Nowi-Sunthi drainage projects was adjusted in the accounts of 1923-24. The absence of non-adjustment of any such expenditure in 1924-25 accounts for the decrease.

Construction of Irrigation works financed from ordinary revenue.—The decrease is chiefly due to smaller outlay on the dredging of the Bidyadhari river and on the purchase of dredgers.

The decrease under *Interest on ordinary debt* is partly due to the payment of smaller interest to the Central Government on the reduced debt, and partly to larger deductions on account of interest transferred to Commercial Departments. The decrease under *General Administration* is due partly to the fact that no Ministers were entertained and partly to smaller expenditure under “Travelling Allowance” and “Non-contract charges” under General Establishment. The increase under *Police* is attributed to larger expenditure on the Criminal Investigation Department, temporary District Intelligence Staff, and clothing of the District Executive Force. The increase in *Ports and Pilotage* is due to the adjustment of all charges on account of pooling of all Government launches under this head and to the purchase of a site for a dockyard. The decrease in expenditure under *Education* is mainly due to smaller grants to the Calcutta University and to the non-Government secondary schools. The increase under the head *Medical* is mainly due to larger grants to hospitals, dispensaries and the

Ranchi Mental Hospital, while the increase under *Public Health* is mainly due to larger expenditure in connection with epidemic diseases. The adjustment of charges in connection with the British Empire Exhibition accounts for the increase under *Miscellaneous Departments*, while larger expenditure on roads in the Darjeeling district and on repairs accounts for the increase under *Civil Works*. The increase under *Superannuation Allowances and Pensions* is due to larger payment of pensions. The absence of any payment to the Government of Assam for the up-keep of the Pasteur Institute at Shillong accounts for the decrease under *Miscellaneous*. The increase under *Irrigation—Capital Works not charged to Revenue* is due to non-adjustment in 1924-25 of certain payments made in England, while the decrease under *Expenditure in England* is mainly due to smaller payments on account of the purchase of stores.

STAMPS.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department for the year 1924-25.
Statistics of British India, Part IV (b)—Finance and Revenue.]

401. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 3,44,79,285 during the year 1924-25 showing an increase of Rs. 20,35,662 or 5·3 per cent. over those of 1923-24. The increase occurred both under judicial and non-judicial stamps.

Revenue and
charges.

The charges during the year were Rs. 8,93,624 against Rs. 8,63,267 in the previous year.

402. The sale proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) rose from Rs. 2,03,74,473 in 1923-24 to Rs. 2,05,44,378 in 1924-25, showing an increase of Rs. 1,69,905 which was shared by almost all the districts, the principal exceptions being Calcutta, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Tippera and Rangpur. The large decrease (Rs. 2,96,472) in Calcutta was due to comparatively less duties having been realised in respect of probates and letters of administration. The decreases in Dacca, Mymensingh and Faridpur are attributed to the fall in the number of money suits instituted owing to the establishment of a number of union courts.

Judicial stamps.

403. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 1,10,38,595 to Rs. 1,28,91,039, an increase of Rs. 18,52,444. There were increases in most districts but the chief rise was in Calcutta (Rs. 5,78,092); the increase in Calcutta is ascribed to the revival of trade. The additional assignment of Rs. 6,31,000 by the Government of India on account of the provincial share of sale proceeds of unified stamps also contributed to the increase.

Non-Judicial
stamps.

Sale of stamps.

404. The number of vendors holding licenses to sell stamps fell from 5,379 to 5,324. The amount of discount allowed to them rose from Rs. 4,34,367 to Rs. 4,37,610.

Deficient duty.

405. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 rose from 1,418 to 1,524. The amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases was Rs. 13,602 against Rs. 12,074 in 1923-24. The number of cases decided by Revenue Courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of Act II of 1899 fell from 4,498 to 4,217 and the amount of penalty realised decreased from Rs. 74,565 to Rs. 55,886.

**Prosecution
under the Stamp
Act.**

406. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 201 against 251 in the year 1923-24. Of the 32 persons brought to trial 24 were convicted, the figures for the previous year being 87 and 74, respectively. The fines imposed fell from Rs. 984 to Rs. 404 and the amount of rewards paid to informers decreased from Rs. 528 to Rs. 45.

**Working of
section 19H of the
Court-fees Act.**

407. Of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1924-25, including those pending at the beginning of the year 72.9 per cent. were completely enquired into against 70.4 per cent. in the preceding year. The proportion borne by the deficient duty required to the amount originally realised was 10.2 per cent. against 10.4 per cent. in the previous year.

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in Bengal, 1924-25. Statistics of British India, Part IV (b)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

**Excise Licensing
Boards and
Advisory
Committees.**

408. Government continued to act on the advice of the Licensing Boards of Calcutta and its suburbs, and in areas outside the Calcutta district all recommendations of the local Advisory Committees were carefully considered and most of them were accepted.

Revenue.

409. The total exercise revenue amounted to Rs. 2,15,53,443 against Rs. 2,09,66,085 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 5,87,358. The heads which showed an increase were *Hemp drugs* (Rs. 4,56,582), *Tari* (Rs. 2,28,824), *Opium* (Rs. 1,15,607) *Pachwai* (Rs. 64,408) and *Commercial spirits* (Rs. 56,979). Against this there was a decrease of Rs. 2,08,854 under *Country spirit* and of Rs. 1,52,427 under *Duty on wines and spirits manufactured in India and excised at tariff rates*. The incidence of revenue was 7 annas and 4 pies against 7 annas and 1 pie in the previous year.

Country spirit.

410. The system of contract supply was the only system in force during the year. The number of shops decreased by 8 and consumption by 11,530 proof gallons. Consumption decreased in

11 districts and increased in 16 districts. There was a heavy fall in Calcutta mainly due to trade depression, but also partly to the reduction of facilities. Outside Calcutta the decrease in consumption was considerable in Burdwan, due to bad harvests and general depression in trade; in Bankura, due to the indifferent business in the lac area; in the 24-Parganas, due to the general slump in trade; in Murshidabad, due to the failure of the paddy crop and to the depression in the lac trade in the Jangipur sub-division; in Chittagong, due to dull trade and to the closure of some branches of the Railway workshops at Pahartali. The increase in consumption was considerable in Mymensingh, due to the influx of a large number of up-country people in connection with jute and other business; in Jalpaiguri, due to the forcible closing down of more than 100 *shebeens* in the tea gardens in the Duars where liquors were manufactured and sold at a very low price and to the opening of 4 new shops; and in Rangpur and Darjeeling, due to the prosperous condition of the people. The fluctuations in other districts were very small.

411. The tree-tax system was continued in the same areas as last year. The total number of fermented *tari* licenses decreased from 564 to 554, whereas the total receipts increased from Rs. 4,83,787 to Rs. 7,12,611. **Tari.**

412. The total number of *pachwai* licenses was 34,930 as compared with 23,049 in 1923-24. The revenue from retail license fees increased from Rs. 13,48,564 to Rs. 13,90,993. The increase was considerable in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura and Darjeeling. The revenue from home-brewing licenses increased from Rs. 37,054 to Rs. 59,033. **Pachwai.**

413. The total number of licenses issued for wholesale and retail vend of potable foreign liquor, exclusive of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wines and commercial spirits, was 1,403 against 1,088 in the preceding year. The total receipts from license fees were Rs. 3,05,907 against Rs. 2,74,698 (revised figures) in the previous year. The receipts from duty were Rs. 8,45,449 against Rs. 9,97,876, the decrease being mainly due to the fact that a smaller quantity of Indian spirit was issued for blending purposes. **Foreign liquor.**

414. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of *ganja* was 1,201 against 1,193 in 1923-24. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 42,78,822 against Rs. 39,27,475 in the preceding year, the net increase being Rs. 3,51,347. The total quantity of *ganja* consumed amounted to 1,727 maunds as compared with 1,665 maunds in 1923-24. Consumption increased in twenty-two districts and decreased in five. The increase exceeded 10 per cent. in the two districts, Midnapore and Rajshahi. It exceeded 3 maunds in the **Ganja.**

districts of 24-Parganas, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Dinajpur and Pabna. Better economic conditions, influx of customers owing to the existence of railway lines within the mill areas, improvement in the brick business, and influx to jute markets of a large number of up-country coolies owing to the flourishing state of the trade mainly accounted for the increase in consumption. It was also reported that people resorted to *ganja* in certain areas in preference to liquor, the former being relatively cheaper. The decrease in consumption exceeded two maunds in one district only, Murshidabad, due to the general failure of crops and the slump in the lac trade. The general fall in consumption in the Chittagong Division was due to a rise in the price of staple food-stuffs and to the slackness of business during the year. The total taxation was Rs. 60·3 per seer as compared with Rs. 57·2 in the previous year.

Bhang.

415. The total consumption of *bhang* amounted to 445 maunds as compared with 476 maunds in the previous year. The total revenue from license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 2,20,082 as compared with Rs. 1,79,361 in 1923-24, showing an increase of Rs. 42,721.

Charas.

416. The total number of retail licenses was 31 against 30 in the previous year and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 2,51,132 as compared with Rs. 1,88,618 in 1923-24, showing an increase of Rs. 62,514.

Opium.

417. The system under which the issue of opium to retail shops is restricted to the estimated local demand continued in the districts in which it had been enforced previously. The total number of licenses issued for the retail vend of opium was 846 against 832 in the previous year. The total consumption of opium amounted to 1,003 maunds as compared with 999 maunds in the previous year. The consumption increased in 17 districts and decreased in 9. The total revenue amounted to Rs. 33,04,805 as compared with Rs. 31,89,198 in 1923-24, showing an increase of Rs. 1,15,607.

Cocaine.

418. The total number of licenses issued to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine was 357 against 361 in the previous year. Sixty-two permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision, of which 12 were for tea gardens in Jalpaiguri and the remainder for charitable dispensaries in various parts of the Province. Thirty-two permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests made for illicit possession of cocaine was 317 against 287 in the previous year. In Calcutta 181 oz. and 98 gr. were seized by Excise officers, 1,197 oz. and 270 gr. by Customs officers and 28 oz. and 174 gr. by Police officers as compared with 47 oz. and 112½ gr., 1,630 oz. and 590 gr.

and 37 oz. and 351 gr., respectively, in the previous year. The total quantity seized in Bengal was 1,432 oz. and 112 gr. as compared with 1,730 oz. and 231 gr. in 1923-24.

419. The total number of persons arrested on charges under the Excise and Opium laws during the year was 6,198, and of persons convicted, 5,816, as compared with 5,283 and 4,929, respectively, in the previous year.

Excise offences.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal
for the year 1924-25.]

420. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts where the Cess Act is not in force, the road and public works cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and annual net profits of mines and other immovable properties.

Rate.

421. The valuation or gross rental on which the cesses are based amounted to Rs. 14,75,49,286 against the land revenue demand of the same area of Rs. 2,88,60,432. The proportion of land revenue to rental value works out at 19·5 per cent. The total cess demand was Rs. 94,42,520. The current demand showed a net increase of Rs. 1,32,031 over that of the preceding year contributed mainly by the district of Burdwan. The increase in Burdwan was due to the assessment of some new mines and the receipts on account of royalty. The percentage of total collections on current demand reached the standard of 100 per cent. or more in the districts of Nadia, Midnapore, Faridpur, Jessore, Dinajpur, Bogra, Noakhali, Pabna, Bakarganj, Dacca, Murshidabad, Malda, Khulna, Hooghly, Tippera, Burdwan, Jalpaiguri, Rajshahi and Darjeeling. The percentage of the remaining districts varied from 89·5 to 99·5.

Demands and
collections.

422. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of cesses fell from 47,751 in the previous year to 42,613 during the year under review. The total number of certificates for disposal, including those (19,229) pending from the preceding year, came to 61,842 of which 46,449 were disposed of and 15,393 left pending at the close of the year. In the majority of cases arrears of cesses were recovered on the issue of notices of demand or on the issue of notices for the attachment of property. Recourse to actual sale had to be taken only in 1,028 cases out of a total number of 61,842 for disposal.

Working of the
certificate
procedure.

423. Revaluations on a large scale were in progress in the districts of Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah, Nadia, Jessore, Tippera, Rangpur, Malda and Darjeeling and the operations in Tippera

Valuation and
revaluation.

were completed during the year under report. In Birbhum some collieries and quarries were assessed to cesses and the assessment of coal mines in the district of Burdwan and of certain *gazari* forests in Dacca was, as in the previous years, revised under Chapter V of the Cess Act. Partial valuations or revaluations were also undertaken during the year, in the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Chittagong, Noakhali and Jalpaiguri.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Forests.]

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of this Report—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1924.]

424. The total rainfall of the season, May to October, was 10 per cent. below normal in the Presidency, Burdwan and Rajshahi divisions and largely in excess in the Chittagong and Dacca divisions.

Climatic conditions.

425. Bengal stood eighth on the list among the ten provinces of India as regards birth-rate and third as regards death-rate. Judged by the rate of natural increase, as shown by the excess of births over deaths, it was eighth on the list.

Vital Statistics—General.

426. Altogether 1,370,114 births were recorded giving a birth-rate of 29·5 per mille, a figure 1·3 per cent. below that of 1923 and 2·6 per cent. below the average of the previous 10 years. Murshidabad recorded the highest birth-rate, 41·5 per mille, and Calcutta the lowest 18·3 per mille. One hundred and seven males were born to every 100 females.

Birth-rate.

427. A total of 1,203,244 deaths was recorded giving a death-rate of 25·9 per mille, which was 13·7 per cent. less than the decennial mean. The highest death-rate, 36·1 per mille, was recorded in Darjeeling and the lowest, 16·8 per mille, in Tippera.

Death-rate.

428. A total of 647,403 male and 555,841 female deaths were recorded, giving death-rates of 26·9 and 24·7 per mille, respectively, and a ratio of 116 male to every 100 female deaths. The female death-rate exceeded that of the males only in Calcutta, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

Sex mortality.

429. About 33·2 per cent. of the total deaths occurred under the age of 5 years and 17·0 per cent. in persons above 50, these two groups together contributing to a little over 50 per cent. of the total deaths while the remaining 50 per cent. occurred in persons between 5 and 50 years of age.

Mortality according to age.

430. The death-rate among Mussalmans greatly exceeded that among Hindus in the Presidency division and it was slightly in excess in all the other divisions except Dacca.

Class mortality.

431. There were 252,337 infant deaths, giving an increase in the death-rate of 1·1 per cent. over the previous year. These deaths accounted for 20·9 per cent. of the total mortality. The highest infant death-rate, 200 per mille, occurred in Rajshahi division and the lowest, 133 per mille, in Chittagong division. The highest

Infant mortality.

percentage, 60·0, of infant mortality within one month of birth, was recorded in the Burdwan division and the lowest, 44·3, in the Chittagong division. The highest infant death-rate, 317, was recorded in Calcutta and the lowest, 131·9, in Tippera district.

Child mortality. 432. In all 303,474 deaths or 25·2 per cent. of the total mortality occurred among children aged 1 to 15 years. The Chittagong division recorded the highest proportion, 29·5 per cent. and Burdwan the lowest, 19·8 per cent.

Excess of births over deaths. 433. There was an excess of 166,870 births over deaths giving a rate of natural increase of 3·6 per mille of the population. This increase was highest in Murshidabad district, 14·6, and lowest in Jalpaiguri, 0·7 per mille. In 8 districts, including Calcutta, an excess of deaths over births was recorded.

Cholera. 434. During the year, 48,514 deaths from cholera were recorded, showing an excess of 16·9 per cent. over that of the previous year. Cholera deaths represented 4·03 per cent. of the total mortality against 3·49 per cent. in 1923. The Burdwan division suffered most from cholera followed closely by the Dacca and Presidency divisions. Among the districts, Jalpaiguri returned the highest death-rate, 2·5 per mille.

Small-pox. 435. Deaths from small-pox amounted to 5,567. The death-rate showed an increase of 33·3 per cent. over the previous year. Small-pox accounted for 0·46 per cent. of the total mortality. The death-rate from small-pox was highest in the Presidency division, ·15 per mille, and lowest in Dacca division, ·09 per mille.

Plague. 436. Thirty-five deaths from plague occurred in the province of which 33 took place in Calcutta.

Fever. 437. The number of deaths reported from fever was 912,408 against 909,795 in the previous year; of these, 527,902 were recorded as due to malaria, 9,997 to kala-azar, 5,574 to enteric, 4,034 to relapsing fever, 1,542 to measles and the remaining 363,359 to other fevers. The fever death-rate was 19·6 per mille and that of malaria 11·3. Deaths from malaria showed a reduction of 2·6 per cent. Judging from the fever index, Burdwan, Birbhum and Jalpaiguri appear to be the worst sufferers from malaria, while Noakhali and Calcutta were the least affected. Although 9,997 deaths were reported as occurring from kala-azar giving a death-rate of only 0·21 per mille, yet the number of cases admitted for treatment to the various hospitals, dispensaries and special centres discloses the fact that this disease is widely scattered throughout the province.

Respiratory diseases. 438. A total of 26,649 deaths was reported from respiratory diseases including 1,676 from influenza, 11,490 from pneumonia, 5,577 from phthisis and 7,906 from other respiratory diseases. The death-rate from respiratory diseases was 0·6 per mille.

439. Deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa amounted to 22,470, of which 13,997 were due to dysentery and 8,473 to diarrhœa. The death-rate for dysentery and diarrhœa combined was 0·48 per mille.

440. Deaths from injury amounted to 19,772 including 3,302 from suicide, 10,967 from wounds or accidents, 5,160 from snake-bite and attacks of wild animals and 343 from rabies. .

**Dysentery and
diarrhœa.
Injuries.**

Emigration.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[Report on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), for the year ending the 30th June, 1925.]

441. There was a noticeable decrease in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts during the year under review as compared with the previous year, but the total number was still greater than those of 1921-22 and 1922-23.

Recruitment.

Recruitment in Bengal was, as in previous years, confined to the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Midnapore. The number of garden sardars employed during the year was 215 as against 253 in the preceding year. All worked under the supervision of licensed local agents. The number of local agents' licenses issued was 18 as against 21 licenses granted in the previous year. The total number of emigrants registered by garden sardars in Bengal was 406 as against 217, in the preceding year. The largest number registered was in the Midnapore district, *viz.*, 369. The total number of recruits from Bengal and other provinces embarking at Goalundo was 12,625 as against 17,054 in the preceding year.

Arrangements for river transport were satisfactory. Only one death due to cholera occurred at the halting station at Kharagpur, and there was no death at the other two halting places at Asansol and Naihati. Of the 12,638 emigrants, who arrived at Goalundo from the recruiting districts in and outside the Presidency of Bengal, five deserted, eight were released, and two died. There was no casualty amongst the emigrants during their journeys by steamer from Goalundo or by railway from Chandpur to their final destination. There was one case of desertion amongst the emigrants who embarked at Goalundo for the Brahmaputra Valley.

In connection with the transport of labour to Assam, receipts amounted to Rs. 1,796 as against Rs. 2,100 in the preceding year, while the expenditure increased from Rs. 7,781-12-1 to Rs. 13,595-6-2.

442. Under the declaration made by the Government of India in the previous year, emigration of unskilled labour to Mauritius was open up to the 31st May, 1924. In Bengal 361 emigrants were recruited and 226 from districts outside Bengal making a total of

**Foreign Emigra-
tion.**

587 despatched to Mauritius from the Port of Calcutta. As no declaration was made by the Government of India permitting emigration to other countries overseas, no emigrants were despatched from this port during the year.

The demand for skilled labour by other countries was, as usual, small. Only 15 tailors and 18 bricklayers were registered and left for Bangkok and Mauritius, respectively, during the year.

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

[Report on the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal for the year 1924.]

**Number of in-
stitutions.**

443. During the year 4 dispensaries were transferred to the list of Calcutta institutions on account of the revision of the boundaries of the town, and 1 new dispensary was opened, thus making a total of 31. Of these, 17 had indoor accommodation—affording 2,958 beds in all. Thirty-nine beds were added to the Marwari Hospital, 9 to the Howrah General Hospital, 8 to the Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases and 1 to the Medical College Hospitals.

**Attendance and
admissions.**

444. The number of indoor and outdoor patients treated during the year was 43,055 and 443,647 as against 40,755 and 375,264, respectively, in the previous year. The increase in the number of patients is ascribed to the abolition of all charges at the outdoor departments of the Medical College, Campbell, Sambhunath Pandit and Presidency General Hospitals and to the remission of additional fees from indoor patients at the two latter institutions. The death-rate among in-patients was 12·11 per cent. as compared with 11·26 in 1923.

Nursing.

445. There was an increase of five nurses in the Medical College group of Hospitals and two in the Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases, respectively, while the Presidency General Hospital and the Campbell Hospital showed a reduction of one each.

Diseases.

446. The incidence of disease as shown by the attendance registers is heaviest under the head of malaria; the number of malaria patients showed an increase on the figure for 1923, viz., 42,270, as against 33,980. Kala-azar showed a steady increase with 8,133 patients against 5,599 in the previous year. There was also a marked increase in phthisical cases with 5,006 as compared with 3,251 in 1923. The number of patients suffering from venereal diseases remained practically the same, being 19,937 against 19,782 in the previous year. The incidence of cholera, small-pox and influenza cases continued to be low.

Finance.

447. The total receipts of Class I, III and IV institutions amounted to Rs. 27,68,464 as against Rs. 28,79,872 in 1923. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 17,92,355 or nearly 64·74 per cent. of the total income. Municipal contributions amounted to Rs. 2,21,998 while a sum of Rs. 38,941 was received from subscriptions and donations. The income from fees from paying patients was Rs. 2,79,579 as compared with Rs. 3,23,058 in 1923. The total expenditure for the maintenance of the Calcutta Hospitals, excluding investments, was Rs. 27,20,872 as against Rs. 27,78,230 in the previous year.

DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

448. During the year 48 new dispensaries were opened, of which 12 were established by District Boards and 17 by Union Boards. Medical relief was also afforded to 89,302 persons in temporary dispensaries and treatment centres opened by local bodies in rural areas.

Number of in-
stitutions.

449. In the Allopathic dispensaries the number of outdoor patients treated was 6,864,361 as compared with 7,082,603 in 1923, while the number of indoor patients was 65,762 as against 61,975 in the previous year. In the Homoeopathic dispensaries, of which the number increased from 27 to 38 in the year, 159,048 patients were treated; 20,105 patients received treatment in the 13 Ayurvedic dispensaries while the 2 Unani institutions treated 2,710 patients.

Number of
patients.

450. More than one-fourth of the total number of patients in district hospitals were treated for malaria. Kala-azar patients numbered 76,014 against 34,264 in 1923. The steady rise in the number of kala-azar patients treated is attributed to a better knowledge of the disease, readier methods of diagnosis, and to the increasing popularity of the injectional line of treatment. There was a slight increase in the number of patients suffering from tuberculosis of lungs and cholera.

Diseases.

451. The actual receipts of Class I, III and IV dispensaries amounted to Rs. 21,63,840 and their cost of maintenance came up to Rs. 19,54,287, the corresponding figures for the previous year being Rs. 19,77,842 and Rs. 18,30,417. Of the total receipts, contributions from Government amounted to 12·41 per cent. as against 12·70 per cent. in 1923. Of the expenditure 51·39 per cent. was borne by the district and union funds and 11·02 per cent. by municipalities, as compared with 47·12 per cent. and 12·42 per cent. respectively in the previous year. Public subscriptions and donations decreased by 3·3 per cent.

Finance.

452. With a view to provide increased facilities for anti-rabic treatment for patients of this province, a Pasteur Institute was

General.

established in connection with the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, and formally opened on the 23rd May, 1924. During the seven months of its existence the institution attracted no less than 1,995 patients as compared with 1,361 Bengal patients treated at the Shillong institute during the whole of the year 1923. It is reported that the number of patients is steadily increasing. It is evident that many persons previously ran risks which are no longer taken.

The Lytton Medical School at Mymensingh was opened in July, 1924, with seats for 200 students. The expansion of the kala-azar work was a notable feature of the year. Through a system of grants-in-aid, Government gave assistance to local bodies in organising measures for combating the disease. Most of the mufassal dispensaries were provided with special drugs and equipment for diagnosis and treatment while several district boards opened special kala-azar centres where trained doctors and compounders afforded relief to sufferers from this disease.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for 1924.]

General.

453. The Eden Sanitarium and Eden Hospital were founded for the benefit of Europeans residing in the Lower Provinces and elsewhere who are unable to obtain in their homes the care and attention which they require when overtaken by sickness or accident.

Number of patients.

454. In the year 1924 the Sanitarium was open from the 1st April to the 5th November. The increase from 280 to 363 in the number of patients, convalescents and their relatives who were admitted, was due to the reduction of charges. The rule regarding the admission to the hospital on medical certificate was abolished and the number of patients rose from 69 to 90.

Finance.

455. No special grant from Government was required by the institution. The usual grant of Rs. 1,500 for the maintenance of free beds was made by Government. In spite of a considerable decrease in receipts from donations and entertainments, the year's working showed a profit of Rs. 2,110, but the balance sheet still shows that liabilities exceed assets by more than Rs. 14,000.

Mental Hospitals.

[Report on the Mental Hospitals in Bengal for the year 1924.]

**Population,
admission and
discharge.**

456. The total capacity of all the mental hospitals in Bengal, including the Observation Ward at Bhowanipore and the Insane

Ward of the Leper Asylum at Gobra, was 1,147 during the year as against 1,121 in 1923. The increase was due to the opening of the Indian Ward at Bhowanipore with 26 beds from the 1st May, 1924. The total number of patients treated in these hospitals during the year was 1,172, showing a decrease of 14 as compared with that for 1923, the daily average strength being 977.05 as against 950.44 in the previous year. The maximum number confined at any one time was 1,023 as compared with 973 in 1923. Admissions and readmissions taken together numbered 224 in 1924, whereas the corresponding number in 1923 was 213. The number of persons discharged was 123 as against 157 in 1923.

457. The daily average sick in the hospitals in 1924 was 80.01 as against 117.90 in 1923. The mortality in 1924 was much lower than in the preceding year—being 5.62 per cent. of the daily average strength as compared with 8.52 in 1923.

**Health of
patients.**

Sanitation.

[Bengal Sanitary Board's Report and the Report of the Chief Engineer, Bengal Public Health Department, for the year 1924.]

458. The constitution of the Board remained the same as in the previous year until September when the Board was reconstituted. The Board held seven meetings during the year. They recommended 6 water-supply schemes, two sewerage schemes, and one drainage scheme to Government for approval. The Board also supervised the 4 anti-malarial schemes at Meenglas, Singaran-Toposi, Jangipur and Banka Valley. The proposal of Rai Bahadur Dr. G. C. Chatterjea for the appointment of a sub-committee to report on tube-wells was under consideration of the Board.

Sanitary Board.

459. Sixteen schemes were under construction under the supervision of this department, including 8 water-supply schemes at Dacca, Comilla, Raniganj, Burdwan, Midnapore, Bankura, Suri and Serampore. Eight sketch projects were prepared and 7 detailed schemes were drawn up, while 3 schemes prepared by local authorities for the improvement of Darjeeling water-works, the drainage of Panchanantala road, and the tube-well project in Howrah Municipality were examined.

**Sanitary
Engineering.**

The total number of water-works in operation during the year remained the same as before, with the exception of Maniktala, Garden Reach and Cossipur-Chitpore, which are now included in the Calcutta Municipality. The total capital expenditure on construction of water-works during the year was Rs. 4,28,774 and on drainage and sewerage projects Rs. 4,13,068.

Vaccination.

[Annual Statistical Returns and Short Notes on Vaccination in Bengal for the year 1924-25.]

460. During the year 1924-25 the total number of vaccinations performed was 2,662,966, including 1,655,201 primary and 1,007,765 revaccinations, or an increase of 64,625 in primary vaccinations and of 550,617 in revaccinations. Free and compulsory vaccination was introduced during the year in many of the rural areas. This being the year in which a recrudescence of small-pox was anticipated, vigorous efforts were made by all the District Boards and Municipalities to keep the epidemic within control by pushing on vaccination and revaccination in their respective jurisdictions with no mean success. The Public Health Department helped the local bodies by deputing the staff at their disposal of Sub-Assistant Surgeons, Sanitary Inspectors and Special Inspectors of Vaccination to their aid, whenever the necessity demanded. The local Government contributed Rs. 50,000 to the District Boards to assist in free vaccination.

The Poisons Act.

[Report on the working of the Poisons Act for the year 1924.]

461. Two hundred and seventy licenses were current during the year throughout the Presidency, excluding Calcutta, as against 260 in the previous year. Of these 115 were issued under section 2 and 155 under section 4, as compared with 93 and 167, respectively, in the year 1923. In Calcutta the total number of licenses issued under both the sections was 273 against 204 in the preceding year. There were 25 prosecutions under the Act of which 21 were in the mufassal and the remaining 4 in Calcutta. There were twelve convictions for cattle poisoning.

Health of the Port of Calcutta.

462. The number of inward bound vessels inspected in the port was 1,022 and that of outward bound vessels 1,135, while the number of crews and passengers were—

			Inward.	Outward.
Crew	..	..	56,084	107,107
Passengers	..	..	101,170	117,093

463. Thirteen deaths of European seamen were reported to have occurred in hospitals while there were 96 cases of venereal disease.

464. The total number of deaths among the Asiatic population of the Port was 143 of which 92 were from accidents, 7 from cholera and 51 from other causes.

465. Nine cases of infectious disease were found on incoming vessels during the year and the patients were removed to hospital and necessary precautionary measures taken. No case of infectious disease was reported to have occurred on undecked native crafts.

Health of the Port of Chittagong.

466. The total number of ships inspected was 225 against 228 in the previous year, and the number of crews and passengers were—

			Inward.	Outward.
Crew	..	..	15,467	3,040
Passengers	..	..	68,585	..

467. There was no case of cholera, small-pox or plague in any vessel lying in the port.

CHAPTER VII—INSTRUCTION.**General System of Public Instruction.**

See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 276—289.

EDUCATION.

[Progress of Education in Bengal for 1924-25.]

**Educational
institutions and
expenditure.**

468. During the year under review the total number of educational institutions increased by 1,172. Recognised institutions increased in number from 54,649 in 1923-24 to 55,890 in 1924-25. The number of unrecognised institutions fell from 1,352 to 1,283. Pupils reading in recognised and unrecognised institutions rose during the year from 2,057,062 to 2,150,942. The total expenditure on education amounted to about Rs. 356½ lakhs towards which Provincial Revenues contributed Rs. 133¾ lakhs, contributions from District and Municipal funds being Rs. 15½ lakhs and Rs. 3 lakhs, respectively, while Rs. 146½ lakhs accrued from fees and Rs. 57¾ lakhs from other private sources. Among noteworthy features of the year only those which deserve special notice will be mentioned. On account of the refusal of the Legislative Council to vote the salaries of the Ministers, the Ministry of Education was dissolved in August, 1924, and His Excellency the Governor had to assume charge of the Department under the Temporary Administration Rules. Owing to the political activity of the Swarajists the salaries of the inspecting officers were refused by the Council. This created a temporary set-back in the educational administration of the province, temporary because the necessary provision was restored in the supplementary budget of the year under report. In accordance with the orders of the Secretary of State all recruitments to the Indian Educational Service, whether permanent or temporary, were stopped pending decision on the recommendations of the Lee Commission's Report on the future of the service. A revised curriculum for maktabs on the lines of that for the primary schools was approved by Government during the year under review. The Moslem community of Bengal has for nearly a century looked forward to the construction of a special college for Moslems in Calcutta. With a view to the establishment of one in the immediate neighbourhood of the Calcutta Madrasah a plot of land was acquired some years ago in Wellesley Street but the project was held up by financial stringency. The proposal was revived last year by Mr. Fazl-ul Huq, then Education Minister, and funds for the establishment of a first grade college for Muhammadans in

Calcutta were voted by Council. The foundation stone of the College was laid by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal on 9th December, 1924, and it is hoped to open the College in 1926. The Calcutta University submitted proposals for the revision of the Matriculation Examination Regulations including that for the total abolition of the age limit. These are under the consideration of Government. Meanwhile Government have, in consultation with the University, reduced the age limit to 15 years as a provisional measure.

During the year under report Calcutta University suffered grievous loss in the deaths of Sir Asutosh Mukherji and Mr. B. N. Basu. Sir Asutosh Mukherji, Bengal's most striking personality, who was five times Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, had made the University what it is to-day. In many ways he was the University. Mr. B. N. Basu, who was Vice-Chancellor in the earlier part of the year, was able through his wide experience to give valuable aid in all University matters.

469. The number of Arts Colleges for men (excluding University classes at Calcutta and Dacca with 1,951 students) was 37 as compared with 36 in the preceding year, the increase being due to the establishment of a new college under private management at Howrah. The number of students reading in Arts Colleges for men rose from 20,805 to 21,919. Of the Arts Colleges 8 were maintained by Government and 29 were under private management. The expenditure on the upkeep of Arts Colleges for men amounted to about Rs. 30½ lakhs, of which Rs. 11 lakhs were met from provincial revenues, while Rs. 17 lakhs accrued from fees, and about Rs. 2½ lakhs from other sources. During the year under review the Advisory Committee for Higher Education agreed to recommend that the rate of 8½ per cent. be contributed by the University of Dacca to the provident fund for teachers, on the conditions that the same rate would be adopted for the University of Calcutta (Post-graduate Departments) and that Government would make a start with a provident fund for colleges. The Committee also considered the question of standardising the Honours Courses of the Universities of Calcutta and Dacca. At Calcutta the Honours Course extends over 2 years, while in Dacca it is a three-year course. The general trend of opinion is that the Honours Course both at Calcutta and Dacca should be a three-year course. The Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University having indicated that time would be required to obtain the views of the Principals of colleges affiliated to that University, further consideration of the question was deferred.

Collegiate educa-
tion.

470. The number of secondary schools for Indian boys rose from 2,498 to 2,566. The number of high and middle English schools increased by 40 and 49, respectively, but middle vernacular schools

Secondary educa-
tion.

decreased by 21. The unpopularity of purely vernacular education accounts for the gradual elimination of middle vernacular schools from the educational system. The number of pupils in high and middle English schools increased by 8,598 and 7,859, respectively. Middle vernacular schools on the other hand reported a loss of 659 pupils. The number of manual training classes attached to secondary schools remained stationary at 22. The cost of maintaining secondary schools amounted to Rs. 93 lakhs of which Rs. 16½ lakhs were provided from public funds and Rs. 76½ lakhs were met from private sources. The proposal to establish a zilla school at the head-quarters of the district of Burdwan was abandoned during the year 1924-25, and an aided high English school was opened in its stead in the buildings recently constructed by Government for the purpose of the proposed zilla school. The Dalton Laboratory Plan according to which each boy progresses in proportion to his own mental powers without retarding abler boys was introduced in January, 1925, into the four top classes of the Armenitola High English School, Dacca. The rates of tuition fees in Government high schools for boys and girls in the Province were revised with effect from January, 1925. The Legislative Council in their March session voted an increased annual grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for secondary education.

The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dacca, continues to function. There were, as in the previous years, two intermediate colleges for men and twelve high schools under its control. There was room for another intermediate college in Dacca and the Imperial Seminary was raised to the status of an intermediate college after the close of the year under review. The arrangement by which the existence of the Board is sanctioned from year to year places the Board in an unsatisfactory position.

**Primary educa-
tion.**

471. The number of primary schools for Indian boys rose from 36,578 to 37,071 while the number of pupils reading in them rose from 1,255,904 to 1,309,556. Approximately 5·6 per cent. of the total Hindu (male) population and 5·3 per cent. of the Muhammadan (male) population were undergoing instruction in primary schools at the close of the year 1924-25. The total direct expenditure on primary schools for Indian boys amounted to about Rs. 49½ lakhs of which 47·89 per cent. was met from public funds and 52·11 per cent. from private sources. The revised curriculum for primary schools was introduced in January, 1925, into all the districts of the Presidency. Funds were allotted during the year under review for the construction of 84 Panchayati Union schools for boys. As a result of the enquiry instituted in connection with the expansion of the Panchayati Union scheme it was considered desirable to push forward the scheme to its completion. The

municipalities of Dacca, Howrah and Budge Budge received Government sanction to introduce schemes of free primary education on the lines of the proposals made by Mr. Biss.

472. At the end of the year there were 107 institutions for the training of male teachers for Indian schools, *viz.*, 2 training colleges, 6 normal schools and 99 guru and muallim training schools. The two training colleges maintained by Government at Calcutta and Dacca passed 74 students in the B. T. and 13 students in the L. T. Examinations. The work on the new Teachers' Training College, Ballyganj, went on vigorously during the year and the new College was completed after the close of the year under review. The normal schools passed 135 and the guru and muallim training schools 1,237 pupils.

Training of male teachers.

473. As in the previous year law classes were held only in 3 institutions, *viz.*, the Calcutta University Law College and the Law Departments of Ripon College and Dacca University. The number of students reading in the three institutions rose from 3,140 to 3,634. Six hundred and thirty-three students passed the B. L. Examination during the year 1924-25. The report of the Dacca Technical and Vocational Education Committee was received and considered by Government. A resolution embodying the conclusions arrived at by Government will be issued shortly.

Professional and technical education.

474. The Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, had a total of 321 students on its rolls in the various departments, *viz.*, Civil Engineering, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Mining and Industrial Sections. Eighteen candidates passed the B. E. and 25 the I. E. Examination during the year under review; 24 successful students were awarded certificates for proficiency in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and Mining.

Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur.

475. The Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, had a total of 478 students in the Upper Subordinate, Lower Subordinate and the Industrial Departments. Additional sections had been opened temporarily in all the Upper Subordinate classes and an additional staff of 6 teachers appointed to cope with the increased work. The school passed 101 students in the Upper Subordinate, and 26 in the Lower Subordinate Examinations. The term of 5 years for which the school was affiliated to the Overseer Examination Board having expired last session, the school was inspected by the Board with a view to its re-affiliation for a further period of 5 years.

Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca.

476. Students reading in the day and evening classes of the Government Commercial Institute numbered 230. The Institute passed 30 students in the Final Commercial Course Examination and 121 in the Special Examination. Classes were started for the

Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

first time last year at the Commercial Institute for preparing students for examinations of the Institute of Bankers. The Imperial Bank of India and other banking institutions have declared their intention to throw open responsible posts to passed students of these classes. Fee rates for the evening classes were slightly enhanced last session, greater uniformity being introduced. The report of the Committee appointed by Government in connection with the institution of a separate examination in Accountancy in Bengal is still under the consideration of Government and the Government of India have been addressed in the matter.

There were 26 other commercial schools in the Province under private management with 1,378 pupils on the rolls on 31st March, 1925. These schools cost altogether Rs. 53,467 out of which Rs. 4,200 was met from provincial revenues.

Of the students who passed the Intermediate Examination last year from Jagannath College 44 took up Dyeing as a subject of study while 30 passed with Commerce as a special subject. The University classes at Calcutta and Dacca secured 34 and 17 passes, respectively, in the Final Commercial Course Examinations. The "B" classes attached to 5 high English schools in the Province presented 36 candidates for examination; of these 25 were successful.

**Education of
Indian girls and
women.**

477. The number of recognised schools of all kinds for Indian girls rose from 12,961 to 13,494 or by 4.1 per cent. and the number of pupils attending them increased by 15,876 or 5.2 per cent. The number of unrecognised schools decreased by 13. The intermediate classes of Eden High School, Dacca, had 26 students on the 31st March, 1925. The Bethune College increased in strength by 6 while the number of pupils in Diocesan College and Loreto House declined by 2 and 3, respectively. Excellent work is being done by the Nari Sikha Samity and the Society for the Improvement of Backward Classes with financial assistance given by Government. In spite of crippled resources European and American Missions continued to maintain a large number of primary schools. Ten women teachers passed the B. T. Examination from the training class attached to the Diocesan College and the Loreto House turned out 5 L. T. teachers. For the training of women teachers of lower grade there were 10 institutions (with 178 pupils), 7 of which were managed by Christian and Brahmo Missions. It is hoped that the experiment in Zenana Education, which is now being conducted at Dacca by Mr. West, Principal of the Teachers' Training College, will be attended with success. The peripatetic needle-work teachers worked well as before.

**European educa-
tion.**

478. There were 63 institutions with 10,616 pupils as compared with 64 institutions and 10,574 pupils in the preceding year. The

decrease in the number of schools was due to the exclusion from the list of European schools of St. Gregory's School, Dacca, which has been recognised by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education as a school for Indians. The new code of regulations for European schools was under preparation during the year under review and is now practically complete. The Dalton Laboratory Plan of study was given a trial in 3 of the European schools, *viz.*, St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, Diocesan Girls' School, Darjeeling, and the Pratt Memorial School, Calcutta, with varying results. It has not been proved yet that this method of teaching is suitable for Indian conditions. Almost all the European schools are suffering from straitened finances. The munificent gift of 11 lakhs of rupees made to the Martiniere Schools by Sir Paul Chater has placed the schools, which were suffering like the others from straitened finance, on a substantial footing.

479. The total number of Moslem pupils in all types of educational institutions for Indians rose by 57,492. In Arts and Professional Colleges the proportion of Moslem pupils to the total number of pupils under instruction remained stationary; in the middle stage the proportion declined; while an increase was registered in high and primary stages and in special schools. The rise in primary and special schools is due to the growing popularity of maktabas and reformed madrasahs among Moslems. A revised curriculum for maktabas on the lines of that for primary schools was approved by Government during the year under review. Sixty-three candidates passed the Islamic Matriculation Examination and 11 the Islamic Intermediate Examination conducted by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dacca. While the rise in the number of pupils and institutions is satisfactory, the position of Muhammadan education is by no means satisfactory and more will have to be done to meet the needs of the community.

**Muhammadan
education.**

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

480. The total number of publications registered was 5,028 of which 3,642 were books and 1,386 periodicals. Of the former 3,347 were original publications and 295 republications. Seventy-nine new periodicals were published of which 26 were in English and 41 in Bengali. The figure for periodicals does not include all periodicals published in Bengal. Many magazines which sometimes contain public news or comments thereon, have been declared as "Newspapers" by printers and publishers who have complied with the provisions of section 5 of the Act; in some cases the printers have claimed exemption from liability to registration under section 9 of the Act; in others the periodicals have been presented for registration as books.

**The Bengal
Library and
working of Act
XXV of 1867.**

The Press.

481. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and Vernacular, printed and published during the year, was 643, of these 409 were published in Calcutta. There were 317 publications in Bengali, 193 in English and the remainder in other languages.

One hundred and seventy-six new newspapers and periodicals were started and 140 ceased to exist.

Literary Publica-
tions.

482. This year showed a further increase in literary activity. The general standard of the publications as compared with that of the previous year, was higher except in the case of History.

Though drama as a public amusement has gained considerably in popularity, it still remained in a state of decline. The majority of plays staged were historical; but they were all of poor literary merit. The only poetic composition containing abstruse symbolism was Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore's *Rakta Karavi* (or the *Red Karavi Flower*).

Fiction continued to flourish and the writers chiefly touched on the social questions of the day.

The literature on art, though still scanty, showed signs of an awakening interest in the subject. Nationalism was still the dominating note.

Bengali poems were slightly better than those of some previous years.

There were also a few notable books on Indian Economics.

Proscription and
prosecutions.

483. During the year 3 leaflets and 5 books were forfeited.

The Editor of the *Habul Matin* was warned that he should abstain from publishing articles which are anti-British or libellous in tone.

There were no prosecutions.

Topics discussed
in the Press.

484. The main features in the development of the political situation during the year 1924 were the Swarajya party's campaign within the Council against the working of the Government of India Act of 1919 and their successful efforts to render the appointment of Ministers impossible. These events were followed with the greatest interest by the public and, with a few exceptions, received approbation from the Indian Press. Owing to its exploitation by the Swarajya party the Satyagraha movement at Tarakeswar occupied a very prominent place in the daily press during the earlier part of the year, but when that topic lost its interest, the measures taken by Government to deal with the revolutionary conspiracy by means of the Regulation and the Ordinance gave a new opportunity for all papers to unite in criticism of Government and in condemnation of its policy.

The development of a press organised on party lines continued, and *Forward*, the organ of the Swarajya party, rose towards the end of the year to a dominant position. A notable feature of the latter half of the year was the vigorous attack on the Swarajya party conducted by the *Bengalee* after Babu Bipin Chandra Pal became editor of that paper.

A serious feature was the increase of a class of writing which, though obviously seditious and tending to incite to violence, was yet not punishable under the laws in force. Criticism of the work of the different departments of Government and of Government officials continued, as in the past, without intermission and with its old irresponsibility and malignity.

Literary Societies.

See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 293-295.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

485. The total number of students on the rolls of the Government School of Art, Calcutta, on the 31st March, 1925, was 361 as against 340 in the previous year. Of these, 198 belonged to the Elementary Department, 44 to the Industrial Department, 50 to the Draftsman Department, 64 to the Fine Arts Department, and 5 to the Teachers' Department. Of the students 345 were Hindus and 10 Muhammadans; the rest belonged to other creeds. The maintenance charges of the school amounted to Rs. 47,987 during the year 1924-25, of which Rs. 40,229 were borne by Provincial Revenues. With a view to making the school more self-supporting increased rates of fees were introduced in the Government School of Art during the year under review. Several passed students of the school secured employment on salaries ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,000 per mensem.

Government
School of Art,
Calcutta.

486. The practice of lending to the Government School of Art selected specimens of art objects from the Gallery, useful as examples to students, continues to be in force. The upkeep of the Art Gallery cost Rs. 8,510.

Government Art
Gallery, Calcutta.

487. There were 4 other Schools of Art with 203 pupils in the Presidency. Grants were given to 3 of these institutions during the year under review.

Other Schools of
Art.

488. An account of the progress of industrial education will be found in the section on the work of the Department of Industries included in Chapter IV of this report.

Industrial educa-
tion.

CHAPTER VIII—MISCELLANEOUS.

See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 298-301.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

489. The Ecclesiastical Establishment in Bengal during the year 1924-25 paid entirely or in part by Government consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 12 Chaplains of the Church of England, 10 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other societies, 4 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Ferdinand Perier, S.J., and 4 Priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1924.]

General.

490. Major T. C. Boyd, I.M.S., remained in charge of the department throughout the year.

Analytical cases.

491. During the year, 1,642 examinations were made in the General Analytical Department as compared with 1,577 in the previous year. The increase was primarily due to the larger number of samples received from the Military Department, Collector of Customs, the Chief Inspector of Explosives in India and other departments. The analyses of cocaine samples showed a decrease of 127 in comparison with the figures of the previous year. The presence of aconite which increases the intoxicating property of the liquor was detected in some samples of *pachwai*.

Medico-legal cases.

492. The number of medico-legal cases examined during the year was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 1,811. The percentage of detection in "human poisoning" cases was 35.54 as against 35.08 in 1923, while in animal poisoning cases, the percentage increased from 51.92 in the previous year to 64.64 in 1924.

Veterinary Department.

[Annual Report of the Veterinary College and Civil Veterinary Department for the year 1924-25.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

493. The number of students at the Bengal Veterinary College at the end of the session was 132 as compared with 143, 139, 137, in the three preceding years. Sixty students appeared at the final examination and 42 passed, of whom 20 belonged to Bengal.

494. During the year 2,088 patients were treated and 218 operations performed against 2,573 and 601, respectively, during the previous year. Only a very small number of patients was sent to the College Infirmary in connection with prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

College Hospital.

495. The Glanders Department continued to work efficiently and took prompt action to check outbreaks of epizootic diseases in and near Calcutta.

Glanders and
Farcy Act.

496. There was a fall in the mortality of livestock in Bengal from 27,389 to 21,901. Rinderpest, which was less prevalent during the year, was still responsible for 88 per cent. of the deaths. The record of the result of preventive inoculation undertaken during the year, which shows a negligible percentage of 0.5 of deaths amongst the inoculated animals, is a striking proof of the protection it affords to animal life. There was, however, a decrease in the number of inoculations during the year due partly to the restrictions imposed by certain District Boards on the supply of serum. With a view to educating the masses in veterinary matters a scheme for propaganda through the medium of magic lantern demonstrations has been prepared.

Civil Veterinary
Department.

497. The number of dispensaries remained the same as in previous years, *viz.*, 41, in which 47,260 patients were treated against 44,952 in the preceding year.

Dispensaries.

498. Useful work continued to be done in the laboratory. In addition to the work on rabies, pathological specimens were examined and autopsies made on the carcasses of animals. Auto-vaccines, which were extensively used in the College Hospital with success, were also prepared.

Raymond Re-
search Labora-
tory.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1924-25.]

499. The total receipts of the garden increased from Rs. 1,13,684-3-11 to Rs. 1,14,553-6-10 and the expenditure fell from Rs. 1,07,131-10-7 to Rs. 1,00,269-14, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 14,283-8-10. During the year 66,075 persons more than in the previous year visited the garden and the entrance receipts rose from Rs. 64,420-7 to Rs. 67,706-13, showing an increase of Rs. 3,286-6 on the previous year's receipts. The garden was as usual open free to the public one day each month and 41,034 persons visited the garden on those days against 41,784 persons in the previous year.

Finance and
Statistics.

Administration of the Cinematograph Act.

500. The Bengal Board of Film Censors held 12 meetings during the year and certified 632 films. Five hundred and thirty

films were examined by the Board's Inspector. Certificates were refused for two films, and two others certified elsewhere, were banned in Bengal.

Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

501. One new license to supply energy was issued during the year to the Dacca Electric Supply Company, Limited. The effect of the license is to extend that Company's operations over a larger area than was covered by their license of 1910. Two applications for licenses were pending at the close of the year—one from the Chittagong Engineering and Electric Supply Company, Limited, and the other from the East India Electric Supply and Traction Company, Limited, for a new license for the Hooghly, Chinsura and Serampore areas in supersession of their Hooghly-Chinsura Electric License, 1919. The Dooars Electric License, 1920, was revoked on account of the failure of the licensees to fulfil the conditions of their license.

502. Supply was commenced during the year by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, in the Bally-Uttarpara area. The change in the system of their supply from direct to alternating current in certain areas under the Calcutta Electric License provoked a controversy which has since been engaging the attention of Government. The progress made in the construction of compulsory works in connection with the Burdwan Electric License, 1920, was again most disappointing.

503. Six applications to supply energy under section 28 (1) of the Act were entertained and sanctioned. One of these was an application from the Managing Agents of the Gouripore Jute Mill for permission to supply electricity in bulk to the East India Electric Supply and Traction Company, Limited, for the purposes of their operations in Hooghly-Chinsura and their proposed operations in Serampore.

504. There were 12 accidents in connection with the generation, transmission and use of electrical energy, three of which proved fatal.

Indian Territorial Force.

505. During the year the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee was appointed by the Government of India to consider and report on the re-organisation of the Indian Territorial Forces. Their report was awaited. The formation of the Dacca University Corps was still under consideration.

